REGENT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Doctor of Nursing Practice
Student Handbook
(2025-2026)

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Welcome To Regent University School of Nursing

Dear Student,

It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you to Regent University. You have made a great investment in your future by selecting a school that will give you the high-quality, Christ-centered education necessary to bring innovative solutions to the field of nursing and to prepare you to be Christian leaders to change the world. We offer a supportive, collaborative environment to enhance your success as you progress through our program.

This handbook is a very important resource designed to provide you with information on life as a student at Regent University. Our highly trained faculty and staff will support you every step of the way and help you get the most out of your experience here.

Graduates of this program represent the future of nursing and are well-prepared to improve the care of the patients we serve. We extend our best wishes for a dynamic and rewarding educational experience. Thank you for being a part of Regent's mission to prepare Christian leaders for lives of significant purpose and service.

God's blessings,

Regent School of Nursing Faculty

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

~Colossians 1: 9-14

This handbook offers additional information to that offered by other university policies and procedures (e.g., Regent University Student Handbook, University Catalog) to assist students with managing their academic programs. While every effort is made to ensure that there are no discrepancies between program/school handbooks and university policies, if those discrepancies do occur, university policies take precedence.

Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide information for graduate students seeking a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Regent University regarding policies, procedures, and resources. It is designed for students currently enrolled in the DNP program. This handbook is intended to supplement the Regent University student handbook the Regent University graduate catalog and other Regent University policies as indicated.

Changes made within the academic year will be communicated via e-mail and/or posted in the learning management system. Students are responsible for using this handbook as a resource when questions arise as well as a guide through academic and non-academic policies and procedures.

It is the responsibility of the student to review and understand any changes made to the handbook during the entire time they are enrolled in Regent's nursing program as well as recognizing that changes made to policies and procedures may impact them as a student. The updated handbook will be located on the University's School of Nursing website.

Students are required to read the handbook in its entirety and to sign the Handbook Acknowledgement document. (Appendix E)

Mission, Vision, Philosophy

Mission

Regent University's nursing program exists to create a dynamic community of learning to develop exceptionally prepared nurses who will lead to improve health outcomes locally and globally. We promote excellence in teaching, research, service, and practice with a primary focus in faith integration and Christian leadership to change the world. We are committed to being purposeful, caring, disciplined, and celebrative with each student who enters our program.

Vision

The vision of Regent University's nursing program is to be a premier nursing program dedicated to cultivating Christian leaders in the field of nursing to improve health outcomes both locally and globally.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Regent University nursing program is consistent with the mission, vision, and core values of Regent University in fostering Christian leaders to change the world in the discipline of nursing. The philosophy addresses the concepts of the nursing metaparadigm: patient, environment, health, and nursing. Additionally, it addresses learning. These pillars of nursing education and nursing practice reflect the views of the faculty regarding learning, teaching, and, specifically, nursing education.

Person

The person is multidimensional and encompasses the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual components of the individual who is receiving nursing care. A holistic approach is necessary to care for the patient in body, mind, and soul and extends to the family and community. The patient is valued and is to be treated with respect and dignity and should be empowered to manage their own health and retain the right to make informed decisions about their healthcare. Regent students value each individual as a creation of God complete with a giftedness to serve their unique purpose.

Environment

The environment represents external and internal influences on the patient and student. The external environment goes beyond surrounding physical parameters to include historical, political, economic, cultural, and spiritual influences. Individual experiences and perceptions form the internal environment. Thus, there is a relationship between the health of the patient and the quality of their environment, both externally and internally. It is important that the patient responds and adapts to their environment to achieve healthy outcomes.

Likewise, it is important that the student responds and adapts to their learning environment to master their student outcomes. Regent University's nursing program seeks to support a healthy learning environment, emphasizing spiritual adaptation and enlightenment, as an essential element in promoting wellness in student development and patient outcomes.

Health

Health is a dynamic, multidimensional phenomenon that occurs on a wellness to illness continuum. It is influenced by a patient's body, mind, and spirit. The two concepts, wellness, and illness, are mostly self-defined, allowing for individualized perceptions of health. Wellness is sought throughout the process of healing; therefore, wellness promotion and healthy patient goals are an integral element in nursing and patient education. Healing is an active process that is patient driven by perception, subjective information, and objective, physical evidence. It is therefore important to recognize the autonomy of patients in the healing process. Regent University's nursing program seeks to support the process of health and improving patient outcomes through creating a learning environment that emphasizes the three parts of the person and the definition of healing based on patient autonomy and world-view perspectives.

Nursing

Nursing is a multifaceted healthcare profession that seeks to enhance the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities. Through coordinated care, nurses effectively promote health and prevent illness. Regent University's nursing program seeks to develop caring, service-minded nurses who believe nursing is a calling and a ministry of healing.

Learning Goals

Learning is a continuous, life-long process that occurs at any developmental level and is evidenced by consistent changes in behavior. Students bring previous life experiences to the learning environment. These previous experiences influence the student's attitudes and motivation to learn. To facilitate learning, Regent University nursing faculty serve as teachers, resources, mentors, and professional role models for students. Faculty use a variety of teaching and learning strategies to facilitate the student's practice of professional and advanced nursing. The goal of nursing education at Regent University is to assist the students to think critically, solve problems creatively, integrate faith in the decision-making process, and practice nursing from a caring perspective. Regent University's DNP program is designed to facilitate the development of advanced practice nurses and leaders. Graduates emerge ready to apply evidence-based practices, lead quality improvements, and contribute meaningfully to healthcare in a variety of settings, use cultural sensitivity, and adhere to the standards of professional practice guidelines. The focus is on developing expertise in leadership and advanced nursing roles to meet the health and educational needs of the patient, community, and overall profession.

DNP Overview

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs are designed to prepare nurses to practice at the highest level to improve patient outcomes (AACN, 2022). Regent University DNP programs are developed in accordance with the dynamic guidelines provided by Nurse Education Accreditation Organizations. The curriculum provides advanced-level content to DNP candidates, focusing on key practice areas emphasizing the development of advanced competency in evidence-based nursing practice, healthcare-focused quality improvement, and healthcare systems leadership.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree supports the quickly growing needs of a challenging and multi-faceted healthcare system. The DNP is recognized as a terminal degree in all fields of advanced practice nursing. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties(NONPF), the leading organization for NP education, has called for and reaffirmed moving to the DNP degree as the entry-level preparation for NPs by 2025 (NONPF, 2023).

Disclaimer

The purpose of this program is to provide individuals with a broad educational background, which integrates the Christian faith, liberal arts, behavioral and social sciences as well as nursing. Courses offered through the School of Nursing, as well as any accompanying materials and instruction, are intended for educational purposes. They are neither designed to give medical/legal advice nor take the place of appropriate legal, professional, or medical consultation. As laws vary from state to state, and from state to state, students are advised to discuss any specific questions with the proper authorities.

Doctor of Nursing Programs Offered:

Regent University offers two DNP programs as follows:

1) Post-Master's DNP in Nursing Administration and Leadership (non-licensure) – 30 credit hours (a completed master's degree in nursing is required prior to admission to the program)

2) Post-Baccalaureate DNP Program in Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) (licensure) – 74 credit hours (a completed bachelor's degree in nursing is required prior to admission to the program)

    The Post-Baccalaureate DNP has two different concentrations to choose from:
   a) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration
   b) Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree in Nursing Administration & Leadership (30 credit hours) – Non-Licensure

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Nursing Administration and Leadership is a terminal degree that is open to students currently holding a Master of Science in Nursing degree (MSN). This degree prepares nurses for practice on administrative and leadership levels in a variety of healthcare settings. The graduate of the DNP program will link evidence to practice in order to achieve the highest standards, enhance clinical expertise, and analyze existing healthcare systems.

Degree emphasis is placed on nursing roles specializing in nursing administration, as well as systems/organizational leadership and structure. Graduates from the program will be able to assume a number of leadership and administrative roles, although the degree does not prepare the student for Nurse Practitioner licensure. Students who complete nursing degrees at Regent University will have a deep and balanced understanding of nursing practice and Christian faith.

A distinct feature of Regent University School of Nursing degrees is the clear alignment with the mission of the university in terms of Christian leadership, cultural change, and global involvement and outreach. Students who complete nursing degrees at Regent University will have a deep and balanced understanding of nursing practice and Christian faith.

Regent University's DNP program is developed in accordance with *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2021).

Program Learning Outcomes for post-Master's DNP in Administration and Leadership

Graduates with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, Nursing Administration & Leadership Concentration will:

1. Develop and demonstrate advanced professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to graduate nursing administration, education, and professional nursing roles in the context of person-centered care and interprofessional partnerships. (*Essentials*: **Domains: 1**, **2**, **3**, **9**, **10**; **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8; **QSEN** (2012): Patient-center care, Teamwork and Collaboration).

2. Evaluate Christian, historical, and contemporary perspectives on healthcare policy, advocacy, population health, and describe approaches to advancing equitable population health policies. (*Essentials*: **Domains: 3 ,6**, **7**, **9**; **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8).

3. Translate and integrate scholarship into nursing practice, showcasing one's ability to conduct independent research and engage in scholarly inquiry. (*Essentials*: **Domains: 1**, **4**; **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; **QSEN** (2012): Evidenced-Based Practice).

4. Analyze and demonstrate advanced understanding of quality improvement principles in healthcare, as well as the culture of healthcare environment safety. (*Essentials:* **Domains: 2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6** , **7**; **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8; **QSEN** (2012): Quality Improvement, Safety).

5. Develop and apply knowledge of systems-based practice, cost-effectiveness of care, and the relationships between macrosystems, mesosystems, and microsystems. (*Essentials:* **Domains: 3**, **5**, **7** (Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h); **Domain 8** (Competencies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5; Sub-Competencies: 8.1g, h, i, j, k, 8.2f, g, h, i, j, 8.3g, h, i, j, k, 8.4e, f, g, 8.5g, h, i, j, k, l); **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8).

6. Describe appropriate use of health care informatics and emergent technologies designed to improve health care of patients, communities, and populations. (*Essentials:* **Domain 2** (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i, j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); **Domain 3** (Competencies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; Sub-Competencies: 3.1j, k, l, m, n, 3.2d, e, f, g, h, 3.3c, d, e, f, 3.4f, g, h, i, j, k, l, 3.5f, g, h, i, 3.6f, g, h, i, j); **Domain 5** (Competencies: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Sub-Competencies: 5.1i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 5.2g, h, i, j, 5.3e, f, g, h**); Domain 7** (Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h); **Domain 8** (Competencies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5; Sub-Competencies: 8.1g, h, i, j, k, 8.2f, g, h, i, j, 8.3g, h, i, j, k, 8.4e, f, g, 8.5g, h, i, j, k, l); **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-7; **QSEN** (2012): Informatics).

7. Apply, compare, and contrast administrative and leadership theories applicable to the professional identity and role of a nurse leader and a nurse educator. (*Essentials:* **Domain 1** (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, 1.3 d, e, f); **Domain 6** (Competencies: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Sub-Competencies: 6.1g, h, i, j, k, l, 6.2g, h, i, j, 6.3d, 6.4e, f, g, h, I); **Domain 7** (Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h); **Domain 9** (Competencies: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6; Sub-Competencies: 9.1h, i, j, k, 9.2h, i, j, k, l, 9.3i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 9.4d, e, f, g, h, 9.5f, g, h, i, 9.6d, e, f, g, h, I); **Domain 10** (Competencies: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3; Sub-Competencies: 10.1c, d, 10.2g, h, i, j, 10.3j, k, l, m, n, 0, p, q); **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8).

8. Demonstrate competence in the professional integration of Christian perspectives in graduate nursing administration, education, and healthcare delivery. (*Essentials**:** **Domain 1** (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, 1.3 d, e, f); **Domain 2** (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i, j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); **Domain 6** (Competencies: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Sub-Competencies: 6.1g, h, i, j, k, l, 6.2g, h, i, j, 6.3d, 6.4e, f, g, h, I); **Domain 9** (Competencies: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6; Sub-Competencies: 9.1h, i, j, k, 9.2h, i, j, k, l, 9.3i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 9.4d, e, f, g, h, 9.5f, g, h, i, 9.6d, e, f, g, h, I); **Domain 10** (Competencies: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3; Sub-Competencies: 10.1c, d, 10.2g, h, i, j, 10.3j, k, l, m, n, 0, p, q); **Concepts for Nursing Practice**: 1-8).

*Essential Domain notations representative the AACN (2021) Essentials: Domains, Core competencies, sub-competencies and concepts. American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN]. (2021). *The Essentials: Core competencies for professional nursing education.* Accessible online at https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Publications/Essentials-2021.pdf

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree in Nursing Administration & Leadership (30 credit hours) – Non-Licensure

 The post-Master's DNP program is a minimum of 30 credit hours in length* and is outlined as follows:

University Requirement

CHBS 500 Graduate Foundations for Healthcare and Behavioral (2) or UNIV LIB Information Research & Resources (0), as required upon admission.

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Required Core Courses (15 credits):

NURS 805 Role Development of Nurse Leader (3)

NURS 821 Advanced Healthcare Policy & Population Health (3)

NURS 830 Perspectives in Nursing Education (3)

NURS 855 Quality Improvement in Healthcare (3)

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NURS 860 Administrative & Leadership Theory (3)

DNP Scholarly Project and Practicum Courses (15 Credits) *:

NURS 801 DNP Scholarly Project I (3)

NURS 802 DNP Scholarly Project II (3)

NURS 803 DNP Scholarly Project III (3)

NURS 884 DNP Advanced Practicum I (3)

NURS 885 DNP Advanced Practicum II (3)

Additional Courses:

NURS 804 DNP Sholarly Project Continuation (1)

NURS 895 DNP Advanced Practicum Continuation (3)

* The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) requires all DNP students to complete a minimum of 1,000 practicum hours post-BSN. Final credit hours required will depend on the number of credit hours the student obtained during MSN studies and on the number of clinical hours the student obtained during practicum courses. Accepted hours will be reviewed on an individual basis with the student's advisor.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree in Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) (74 credit hours)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Advanced Practice Registered Nursing is a terminal degree open to students currently holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This degree allows nurses to earn a terminal degree in advanced practice. This program offers concentrations that lead to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) preparation and licensure. APRN concentrations include (1) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and (2) Family Nurse Practitioner. The program offers expert preparation in the identified populations and will prepare students to function as change agents by bringing evidence to practice. Upon successful completion of this DNP program, students will be eligible to sit for a national certification and will be eligible for an appropriate APRN license (licensure requirements differ by state).

Nurses prepared with a DNP are trained as clinical experts, evidence-based change agents for health care and advocates for health locally, regionally, and globally. This degree offers the student preparation in areas of interprofessional collaboration, healthcare policy, and evidence-based research, and educates students on how to navigate health systems, business organizations, and patient-centric advocacy.

A distinct feature of Regent University School of Nursing degrees is the clear alignment with the mission of the university in terms of Christian leadership, cultural change, and global involvement and outreach. Students who

complete nursing degrees at Regent University will have a deep and balanced understanding of nursing practice and the Christian faith.

Regent University's DNP program is developed in accordance with *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2021) and the NONPF NP Core Competencies (2022).

Post-Baccalaureate DNP Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) Major Program Outcomes (DNP-APRN PLOs):

Graduates with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, Post-Baccalaureate APRN major should, at a doctoral-level, be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence in the integration of nursing and the related sciences required to analyze, design, implement, and evaluate aggregate outcomes of nursing care in diverse populations. (*Essentials*: Domain 1 (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, j, 1.3 d, e, f); Domain 2 (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i, j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); Domain 7; Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h; Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1-8; **NONPF NP Domains: 1, 2, 7).

2. Analyze and apply research outcomes in the practice setting, resolve practice outcomes across healthcare environments and communicate results intended to advance clinical practice. (*Essentials*: Domain 1 (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, 1.3 d, e, f); Domain 3 (Competencies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; Sub-Competencies: 3.1j, k, l, m, n, 3.2d, e, f, g, h, 3.3c, d, e, f, 3.4f, g, h, i, j, k, l, 3.5f, g, h, i, 3.6f, g, h, i, j); Domain 4 (Competencies: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3; Sub-Competencies: 4.1h, i, j, k, l, m, 4.2f, g, h, i, j, k, 4.3e, f, g, h, I); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1-8; **NONPF NP Domains: 1, 3, 4).

3. Demonstrate competence in the application and determination of appropriate health care informatics and emergent technologies designed to improve health care outcomes. (*Essentials*: Domain 8 (Competencies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5; Sub-Competencies: 8.1g, h, i, j, k, 8.2f, g, h, i, j, 8.3g, h, i, j, k, 8.4e, f, g, 8.5g, h, i, j, k, l); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; **NONPF NP Domain: 8).

4. Advocate for policies and contribute to the development of policies that lead to improved health outcomes for populations and improvement of the quality of the healthcare system. (*Essentials*: Domain 3 (Competencies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; Sub-Competencies: 3.1j, k, l, m, n, 3.2d, e, f, g, h, 3.3c, d, e, f, 3.4f, g, h, i, j, k, l, 3.5f, g, h, i, 3.6f, g, h, i, j); Domain 6 (Competencies: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Sub-Competencies: 6.1g, h, i, j, k, l, 6.2g, h, i, j, 6.3d, 6.4e, f, g, h, I) Domain 7 (Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; **NONPF NP Domains: 3, 6, 7).

5. Demonstrate competence in the leadership, communication, collaboration, and consultation skills required to advance interprofessional teams and partnerships and provide quality and safe care. (*Essentials*: Domain 2 (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i, j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); Domain 5 (Competencies: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Sub-Competencies: 5.1i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 5.2g, h, i, j, 5.3e, f, g, h); Domain 6 (Competencies: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Sub-Competencies: 6.1g, h, i, j, k, l, 6.2g, h, i, j, 6.3d, 6.4e, f, g, h, I); Domain 7 (Competencies: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; Sub-Competencies: 7.1e, f, g, h, 7.2g, h, i, j, k, l, 7.3e, f, g, h); Domain 8 (Competencies: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5; Sub-Competencies: 8.1g, h, i, j, k, 8.2f, g, h, i, j, 8.3g, h, i, j, k, 8.4e, f, g, 8.5g, h, i, j, k, l); Domain 9 (Competencies: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6; Sub-Competencies: 9.1h, i, j, k, 9.2h, i, j, k, l, 9.3i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 9.4d, e, f, g, h, 9.5f, g, h, i, 9.6d, e, f, g, h, I); Domain 10 (Competencies: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3; Sub-Competencies: 10.1c, d, 10.2g, h, i, j, 10.3j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1-8; **NONPF NP Domains: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10).

6. Apply evidence-based advanced clinical decision making to deliver ethical, person-centered, and culturally competent care to diverse individuals, families, and populations. (*Essentials*: Domain 2 (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i,

j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); Domain 3 (Competencies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; Sub-Competencies: 3.1j, k, l, m, n, 3.2d, e, f, g, h, 3.3c, d, e, f, 3.4f, g, h, i, j, k, l, 3.5f, g, h, i, 3.6f, g, h, i, j); Domain 5 (Competencies: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Sub-Competencies: 5.1i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 5.2g, h, i, j, 5.3e, f, g, h); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1-8; **NONPF NP Domains: 2, 3, 5).

7. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of nursing and relevant sciences as well as the ability to translate this knowledge into practice in order to promote positive health care outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems. (*Essentials*: Domain 1 (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, j, 1.3 d, e, f); Domain 3 (Competencies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; Sub-Competencies: 3.1j, k, l, m, n, 3.2d, e, f, g, h, 3.3c, d, e, f, 3.4f, g, h, i, j, k, l, 3.5f, g, h, i, 3.6f, g, h, i, j); Domain 4 (Competencies: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3; Sub-Competencies: 4.1h, i, j, k, l, m, 4.2f, g, h, i, j, k, 4.3e, f, g, h, I); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; **NONPF NP Domain: 1, 3, 4).

8.   Demonstrate skills necessary for independent, person-centered, advanced-level nursing practice and apply best available evidence to continuously improve quality of clinical practice. (*Essentials*: Domain 1 (Competencies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; Sub-Competencies: 1.1e, f, g, 1.2f, g, h, i, j, 1.3 d, e, f); Domain 2 (Competencies: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9; Sub-Competencies 2.1d, e, 2.2g, h, i, j, 2.3h, 2.4f, g, 2.5h, i, j, k, 2.6e, f, g, h, i, j, 2.7d, e, f, 2.8f, g, h, i, j, 2.9f, g, h, i, j); Domain 5 (Competencies: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Sub-Competencies: 5.1i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 5.2g, h, i, j, 5.3e, f, g, h); Domain 9 (Competencies: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6; Sub-Competencies: 9.1h, i, j, k, 9.2h, i, j, k, l, 9.3i, j, k, l, m, n, o, 9.4d, e, f, g, h, 9.5f, g, h, i, 9.6d, e, f, g, h, I); Domain 10 (Competencies: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3; Sub-Competencies: 10.1c, d, 10.2g, h, i, j, 10.3j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q); Concepts for Nursing Practice: 1-8; **NONPF NP Domain: 1, 2, 5, 9, 10).

*Essential Domain notations representative the AACN (2021) Essentials: Domains, Core competencies, sub-competencies and concepts. See Appendix for full alignment details.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN]. (2021). *The Essentials: Core competencies for professional nursing education.* Accessible online at https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Publications/Essentials-2021.pdf

**National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties [NONPF]. (2022) *Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies.* Accessible online at https://www.nonpf.org/page/NP_Role_Core_Competencies

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program - Post-Baccalaureate APRN (74 credit hours)

The post-Baccalaureate DNP program is a minimum of 74 credit hours in length* and is outlined as follows:

University Requirement

CHBS 500 Graduate Foundations for Healthcare and Behavioral (2) or UNIV LIB Information Research & Resources (0), as required upon admission.

Required Core Courses (39 credits):

NURS 508 Theoretical & Ethical Nursing Foundations (3)

NURS 520 Nursing Informatics (3)

NURS 540 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)

NURS 541 Advanced Pharmacology (3)

NURS 550 Advanced Health Assessment (3)

NURS 605 Global Nursing Leadership & Healthcare Delivery Systems (3)

NURS 633 Research Methods and Biostatistics I (3)

NURS 634 Research Methods & Biostatistics II (3)

NURS 805 Role Development of Nurse Leader (3)

NURS 821 Advanced Healthcare Policy & Population Health (3)

NURS 830 Perspectives in Nursing Education (3)

NURS 855 Quality Improvement in Healthcare (3)

NURS 860 Administrative & Leadership Theory (3)

DNP Scholarly Project and Advanced Practicum Courses (12 Credits) *:

NURS 801 DNP Scholarly Project I (3)

NURS 802 DNP Scholarly Project II (3)

NURS 803 DNP Scholarly Project III (3)

APRN 886 DNP APRN Advanced Practicum (3)

Concentration Courses (23 credit hours)

To complete the Post-Baccalaureate DNP APRN licensure degree, students must choose one of the following concentrations and complete the associated courses:

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration (23 specialty credit hours)

APRN 551 Advanced Physical Practice Health Assessment Evaluation (0)

APRN 705 Global Health Challenges and Disparities of Mental Health (2)

APRN 775 Neurobiology & Differential Diagnosis of Mental Disorders (3)

APRN 777 Psychopharmacology (3)

APRN 779 Psychotherapeutic Theories and Clinical Interventions (3)

APRN 780 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Practicum I (3)

APRN 781 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Practicum II (4)

APRN 782 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Practicum III (4)

APRN 797 Comprehensive Concentration Review (1)

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration (23 specialty credit hours)

APRN 551 Advanced Physical Practice Health Assessment Evaluation (0)

APRN 707 Primary Care Approaches for Children, Adolescence, & Families (3)

APRN 762 Family Nurse Practitioner I: Management of Acute Disease Across the Lifespan (3)

APRN 763 Family Nurse Practitioner II: Management of Chronic Disease Across the Lifespan (3)

APRN 764 Women's Health and Wellness Promotion in Primary Care (2)

APRN 787 Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum I (3)

APRN 788 Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum II (4)

APRN 789 Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum III (4)

APRN 797 Comprehensive Concentration Review (1)

* The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) requires all DNP students to complete a minimum of 1,000 practicum hours post-BSN. The final credit hours required will depend on the number of clinical hours students obtained previously during post-BSN practicum courses.

DNP-APRN Program Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Concentration Student Learning Outcomes (DNP PMHNP-SLO's)

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration at Regent University will provide additional support for the concentration content.

Graduates with a Doctor of Nursing degree, with a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration should, at a doctoral-level, be able to:

1. Demonstrate leadership and collaboration with interprofessional colleagues to advocate at the local, state, and national levels for increased awareness of mental disorders, reduction of health disparities and stigma, and improvement of clinical outcomes for populations with mental health problems and psychiatric disorders. (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 2, 4, 5*)

2. Evaluate how the structure of health delivery systems, organizational practices, financing, marketing, cost, and access impact health care in order to continuously improve the quality and safety of mental health services (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6*)

3. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of neurobiology, psychopathology, psychopharmacology, and psychotherapeutic interventions, and translate this knowledge from research into clinical practice in order to improve mental health outcomes in diverse populations (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8*).

4. Display information literacy and utilize appropriate information technologies to evaluate and improve mental health care within the multidisciplinary collaborative context of advanced practice nursing (*DNP-APRN PLO's 2, 3*).

5. Advocate for ethical healthcare policies that promote awareness, access, equity, improved quality, and reduced cost of mental health services (*DNP-APRN PLO's 4, 5, 6, 7*).

6. Provide ethical and culturally competent mental health services (including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychiatric disorders and co-morbid physical and mental disorders) to diverse populations across the lifespan (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 5, 6, 7, 8*).

DNP-APRN Program Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Concentration Student Learning Outcomes (DNP FNP-SLO's)

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration at Regent University will provide additional support for the concentration content.

Graduates with a Doctor of Nursing degree, with a Family Nurse Practitioner concentration should, at a doctoral-level, be able to:

1. Demonstrate leadership and collaboration with interprofessional colleagues to advocate for the improvement of clinical outcomes in diverse populations across the lifespan. (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 2, 4, 5*).

2. Evaluate how the structure of health delivery systems, organizational practices, financing, marketing, and access impact health care in order to continuously improve the quality and safety of healthcare services (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 3, 4, 5, 6*).

3. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of pharmacology, pathophysiology, and advanced health assessment, and translate this knowledge from research into clinical practice in order to improve health outcomes of diverse individuals and families (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8*).

4. Display information literacy and utilize appropriate information technologies to evaluate and improve healthcare outcomes within the multidisciplinary collaborative context of advanced practice nursing (*DNP-APRN PLO's 2, 3*).

5. Advocate for ethical healthcare policies that promote awareness, access, equity, improved quality, and reduced cost of healthcare services for diverse individuals and families across the lifespan (*DNP-APRN PLO's 4, 5, 6, 7*).

6. Provide ethical and culturally competent healthcare services to diverse populations across the lifespan (including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic disease) through the lens of a Christian worldview (*DNP-APRN PLO's 1, 5, 6, 7, 8*).

Policies For Admission, Progression, & Retention

Admission Requirements for the DNP Program

- Online Application

- Submit Official Transcripts
  - International transcripts must be evaluated by a NACES, AACRAO or NAFSA approved agency.

  - A Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) for post-bachelor's programs and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for post-master's programs from an accredited institution, with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average as verified by official transcripts.

- Complete an admissions questionnaire based on professional goals and interests. The Questionnaire should reflect an understanding of the role of the graduate nurse as it relates to the pursued degree and population foci.

- Submit your Resume or CV. A resume showing at least one year of recent clinical nursing practice experience is preferred and is required for APRN concentrations.

- Submit Nursing and APRN licenses. Unrestricted and unencumbered nursing license(s) in the student's state of practice are required.

- Application fee and Government ID

- Faculty Interview is required

Additionally, potential DNP nurse candidates must fulfill the following admissions criteria:

- Nursing courses completed at the previous degree level must have achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher as verified by official transcripts.

- An unrestricted/unencumbered nursing license in the student's state of practice
- A degree as listed above from an accredited institution.

School of Nursing Graduate Studies Progression Policy

- Students in graduate nursing programs must meet the requirements of the School of Graduate Studies to remain in good standing. An overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better must be maintained to continue in the DNP program.
- In addition, a nursing student must achieve a "B" or better in every graduate nursing course. If a student achieves a failing grade in a nursing course, they must repeat that course when it is next offered to remain in the program.
- If a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, she/he will be placed on academic probation the following semester. If the student does not achieve a 3.0 cumulative grade point average after one probationary semester, the Director of the School of Nursing will determine if the student should be dismissed from graduate study or continue academic probation. No student will be allowed more than two probationary semesters, whether consecutive or cumulative. At the end of the second probationary semester, a student whose cumulative grade point average is still below 3.0 will be dismissed from graduate study.
- Students whose performance results in a GPA so far below 3.0 as to make it mathematically impossible to attain an overall GPA of 3.0 after one semester may be subject to dismissal without a probationary term.
- An incomplete grade ("I") indicates that the student was passing the course at the end of the semester but, due to circumstances beyond the student's control, was unable to complete the course work for which the "I" is assigned. The "I" grade cannot be used to allow a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade or to repeat a course.
- Students must maintain an unencumbered registered nurse license in all states where they are currently licensed throughout the duration of the graduate program and in the state(s) where they fulfill clinical course requirements. If at any time during enrollment in the graduate program a student's nursing license becomes encumbered, suspended, or revoked, the student must immediately report this to the Director of the School of Nursing. If a student's registered nurse license is suspended or revoked, or a student fails to report any changes in licensure status to the Director of the School of Nursing, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the graduate program. A student's ability to continue enrollment in the graduate program with an encumbered license will be reviewed on an individual basis considering the restriction/limitations placed on the student's practice as a registered nurse by the board of nursing in the state issuing the encumbered license.
- W/F will be treated as unsuccessful attempts in nursing courses.
- Students may only enroll in a nursing course twice.

Students are required to read the progression policy and sign the Progression Policy acknowledgement document. (Appendix A)

Academic Probation

Academic probation notifies the student that the quality of work is below the required standard and that continuation of unsatisfactory work will result in dismissal from the School of Nursing. A student is placed on probation following one failure in a nursing course or if the GPA falls below 3.0. The maximum load for students on probation is 12 credit hours. Students can remain on probation for only one semester. To be removed from probation, the student must pass the nursing course in question and/or raise the GPA to a minimum of 3.0. If this does not occur, the student is dismissed from the nursing program.

Graduation Requirements

General DNP Graduation Requirements

All requirements for a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree must be met. In addition, a grade of B or better must be earned in each nursing course. Students must follow the Regent University policy for Intent to Graduate and fulfill all Regent University requirements for graduation.

To qualify for graduation, DNP degree candidates must complete all the requirements on the following checklist and any listed within the University catalog. A student deficient in any area will not receive a diploma until the requirement is complete.

- ✓ Submit a completed Graduation Application to the Registrar by the posted deadline.
- ✓ Maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- ✓ Complete all required coursework with a minimum of a B or better.
- ✓ Fulfill all financial obligations to Regent University.
- ✓ Submit all required completed practicum paperwork.
- ✓ Complete all practicum hours and requirements.
    - o Refer to the Graduate Studies Practicum Guide for details.
- ✓ Complete and successfully defend an approved Scholarly Project.
    - o Refer to the Scholarly Project Handbook for details.

DNP Policy And Procedures

Disability Services

Regent University and the nursing program strive to make courses and facilities as accessible as possible for all individuals. Please visit the Disability Services website at https://www.regent.edu/community-spiritual-life/disability-services/ for further information.

Grading Scale

The following grading system applies to the School of Nursing graduate programs:

Grade	Percentage	Quality Points	Meaning of Grade
A	93–100	4.00	Superior
A-	90-92	3.67	
B+	87-89	3.33	Good
B	83-86	3.00	Satisfactory
B-	80-82	2.67	Failing
C+	77-79	2.33	Failing
C	73-76	2.00	Failing
F	0-72	0	Failing

Students must receive a grade of B or higher to pass their courses.

Length of Courses:

- Courses are generally eight or fifteen weeks, and subject to change.

Disenrollment

A student's enrollment may be terminated by the School of Nursing for any of the following reasons:
1. ***Academic:***
   a. Failure to perform satisfactorily at the graduate level and/or make satisfactory progress toward the degree. Examples of unsatisfactory performance include, but are not limited to, the following: failure to maintain an overall 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA) or inability to complete academic courses within reasonable time frames.
   b. Failure to register for more than one semester without an authorized leave of absence.
   c. Failure to graduate within the maximum time limit allowed by the graduate school (5 years for the DNP program). The student may petition to the University's Vice President of Academic Affairs to have this requirement waived / length of the program extended for an appropriate cause.

2. ***Unprofessional Personal Conduct:***
   a. Failure to behave consistently with the code of ethics of the nursing profession and the rules, regulations, and code of conduct of the School of Nursing, the College of Health and Behavioral

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Sciences, and Regent University.
  b.   Failure to uphold principles of academic honesty and integrity.
  c.   Failure to demonstrate suitability for clinical practice and as defined by professional standards of practice.

3. *Failure to maintain the required cumulative GPA (3.00):*
  a.   To remain in good standing as a student, the required cumulative GPA for courses taken at Regent University is 3.00. (You may be required to maintain a higher GPA to meet some financial aid requirements.)

4. *Multiple Failures of Coursework:*
  a.   Students who fail to pass two or more classes may be subject to academic dismissal, even if the initial failed course is taken again with a passing grade. Courses are considered not passed if a student earns a grade below B or a grade of FX, WF, or NP is posted.

5. *Failure to Demonstrate Clinical Competence:*
  a.   Faculty members evaluate students for clinical competence and serve as "gatekeepers" to the profession. This role exists outside of a student's academic performance. Rather, it focuses on the student's ability to meet the plurality of professional competencies such as, but not limited to, professional judgment, competence, adherence to ethical standards, conducting oneself with compassion and respect for others, displaying personal accountability and responsibility, integrity, boundary management, psychological well-being, and personal maturity. Students who fail to demonstrate appropriate conduct and competencies described above, students who do not achieve a passing level of clinical competency during clinical placements, and those who are judged to be clinically unsuitable for continued patient responsibilities (because of personal or professional conduct), or unsuitable for advanced nursing practice by the SoN / CHBS faculty and leadership may be dismissed from the program.
  b.   Because of the risk to the public for failing to prevent a person from advanced nursing practice who is not properly suited, the presumption in any dismissal case will be in favor of the program's judgment and the student must produce a successfully compelling argument demonstrating that the program acted arbitrarily or capriciously in reaching its decision to win an appeal.

6. *Financial:*
  a.   For failure to meet tuition and financial obligations to Regent University.

Preceptor And Affiliation Information

The nursing program at Regent University will utilize preceptors for monitoring of student experience within clinical settings. Faculty will be responsible for student evaluation. For the purposes of Regent University's DNP program, a preceptor is defined as one who meets the criteria to facilitate the learning process in the clinical setting with the responsibility of serving as a practitioner and mentor for role acclimation. Preceptors give feedback and guidance to the student but are not responsible for evaluating students. Preceptors serve as a mediator of the student's professional clinical performance and the pre-established clinical goals for the assigned course. Students are responsible for knowing the laws and rules of their state board of nursing for clinical practice.

Preceptor Requirements

- Must hold a DNP in Nursing or Higher (See practicum handbook for exceptions).
- APRN DNP Preceptors must have a valid and active license in the state and field pursued.
- Must be actively employed in the specified fields.
- Must have an unrestricted, active RN license.
- Must be willing to adhere to mutually established goals/objectives of the course.
- More than 1 year of experience is preferred.
- Must be willing to offer the necessary clinical hours required to complete clinical courses.
- Must actively work with the patient population to ensure efficient role orientation for the student.
- DNP preceptors will be provided with the Graduate Preceptor Guide that further explains their role.
- Must adhere to any specific requirements of the Board of Nursing where the student is precepting.

Clinical Requirements

To complete the nursing curriculum, students within the DNP program are required to complete precepted clinical hours as outlined by accrediting entities. Students could possibly enter and complete clinical courses at different times according to their individualized degree plans. Prior to entering preceptorship courses, students must ensure all proper documentation is complete prior to obtaining precepted clinical hours. Faculty will work with students to develop preceptorships and aid students with the documentation of preceptors and facilities for their practicum sites.

Preceptorship Site Compliance

The Nursing Program requires students to enroll in an electronic management system of student screenings as required by Regent University. The system is both FERPA and HIPAA compliant. Components include a background check, drug screen, CPR certification, immunizations, and signed program forms (including verification of meeting program technical standards). All forms are available for download. Students are responsible for completing all documentation and proper filing of documents with the clinical compliance vendor. Students must maintain current documentation throughout program progression.

Practicum Hour Clinical Logging System

This policy outlines the requirements and guidelines for all Nursing students at Regent University regarding the use of the Practicum Hour Clinical Logging System for maintaining and demonstrating effective completion of the required patient care experiences applicable to their degree. The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency, accuracy, and compliance with regulatory bodies while documenting clinical hours and experiences during the practicum. *Additional information is in the Graduate Nursing Practicum Guide*.

Criminal Background Check and 10-Panel Drug Screen Progression

1. Students must complete a background check and drug screen application. A report is generated and

sent to the Director of Clinical Training.

2. Reports are reviewed by the Director of Clinical Training as part of the pre-enrollment approval process and before the student may enroll in nursing classes.

3. On receipt of the background check, the Director of Clinical Training will review the results of the background check as well as the 10-panel drug screen. The results will be placed into one of two categories: no concern or concerns.

No Concern

The student has no discrepancies or areas of concern and may proceed with enrollment.

Concern

Results of the background check or 10-panel drug screen have results that present concern. When this occurs, the Director of Clinical Training will meet with the Director of the School of Nursing. A hold will be placed on the enrollment process until the nursing program has cleared the applicant's background check and/or drug screen or has rejected the applicant.

Progression of Concerns

(See Note of Concern- Appendix D)

1. The student is contacted and asked to review the report.
2. The student must submit a written explanation to include.
   A. The circumstances surrounding the reported incident or provide proof of prescription medication for a positive drug screen.
   B. The reason the information reported should not be a disqualifying factor for continuation in the nursing program.
3. A conference or conference call may be scheduled with the student, and the Director of Clinical Training will meet with the Director of the School of Nursing to discuss results to allow the applicant to answer questions or provide additional information.
4. The Director of the School of Nursing will contact the applicable Board of Nursing (per the student's license) and explain the circumstances and provide supporting documentation and ask for the BON recommendation.
5. The Director of the School of Nursing will present the circumstances and the applicable BON recommendation to the Nursing Faculty Council.
6. The Nursing Faculty Council reserves the right to make a decision regarding eligibility for admission into the program.
7. If approved for admission into the program, the student must sign a release of information document that may be shared within the University or the affiliating clinical sites. Some criminal convictions and pending criminal charges may result in limitations on a student's practicum placement and in some cases dismissal from the nursing program.

Substance Abuse Policy

The substance abuse policy of the nursing program is consistent with that of the University. The Regent University nursing program is committed to maintaining a healthy, drug and alcohol-free environment for the safety of our students, faculty and staff, visitors, and patients. The program believes that each nursing

student has a personal obligation to practice health-conscious behaviors intended to foster clear and rational decision-making as well as function in a safe and therapeutic manner throughout the program. Our patients' safety is paramount; this concern serves as the foundation of the Substance Use Policy. Use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, impairment while in the educational setting, and/or abuse of drugs or alcohol that impacts a student's ability to operate in the nursing program will subject a student to dismissal from the program.

Dress Code Policy

All students, regardless of education concentration, will present to all practicum and clinical simulation experiences in a manner that demonstrates professionalism. Students will appear in business casual dress with mid-thigh length white labcoat and School of Nursing name tag. Women will wear dresses, or skirts or dress pants with modest blouses and appear neatly groomed. All dresses and skirts must be between mid-knee and ankle length. Men will wear dress pants with dress shirts and appear neatly groomed. Pants and skirts must cover all undergarments completely and student's midriff and waist area such that the top fit is appropriate, conservative, and modest in nature. All students should wear dress shoes that are slip resistant, and closed toe. No attire should restrict the student's mobility or ability to participate in clinical activities or sterile procedures. All hair color should be natural in color and maintained in a style that does not interfere with clinical procedures as long hair should be pulled back and off the student's face. Facial hair must be trimmed and hygienic such that it would fit under a mask for sterile procedures and not interfere with N95 mask fitting appropriately. Nails should be kept short and neutral tones. Students should not have any visible facial piercings; students are permitted a single piercing per ear lobe with a single stud. Any deviation from this standard of dress code will require prior approval by DNP Program Director and Director of School of Nursing.

Unsafe and Unethical Nursing Practice

The safety of the students, faculty, staff, and patients is of utmost importance to Regent University and the Regent University nursing program. Any behavior that is deemed unsafe or unethical will immediately be addressed by the Department of Nursing and Regent University. The Department of Nursing will follow the discipline procedures as outlined in the Regent University Handbook: *The Student Discipline Process.*

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

All students are expected to adhere to the Regent University Honor Code, which can be found within the Student Handbook at https://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_handbook.cfm. Each examination, paper, and other written or electronically submitted assignment is submitted pursuant to the Honor Code Plagiarism.

Confidentiality and Privacy in Practice (HIPAA)

HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act- "The Department of Health and Human Services and all other health care agencies must ensure that their customers (ex: clients, insured individuals, providers, and health plans) that the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of electronic protected health information they collect, maintain, use, or transmit is protected" (Federal Register, 2003, p1). Individual clinical sites may require students to attend their own HIPAA training sessions.

All students of the Department of Nursing are required to sign the HIPAA form and upload it to the tracking

database. (See Appendix B)

Leave of Absence Policy

The Regent University nursing program faculty understands that students may need to take a leave of absence due to family emergencies, military obligations, and other situations beyond the student's control. The nursing program follows the *Leave of Absence* policy outlined in the Regent University Student Handbook.

Communication Policy

The Regent University nursing program strives to maintain open and clear communication with all students and constituents. As such, it is the policy to update students on changes via their Regent University email address and learning management system. As outlined in this handbook, students are expected to check their email on a regular basis.

Necessary changes to curriculum will be communicated and approved via the Curriculum and Instruction Review Committee (CIRC).

Late Assignment Policy

- Quizzes and written assignments will have 5 % taken off each day it is not submitted up to 7 days and after 7 days, a student will receive a zero.

- Discussion Posts- Discussion Posts- Due to the nature of discussions (specifically, regarding responses), Discussion posts are more time-sensitive than other assignments, because of this both the initial post and the responses are due as scheduled by the professor and participation is required.

    - *Please note: Regardless of the details described above for late assignments, it is very important that you keep your instructor apprised of your progress and any significant factors that may be contributing to your delay and requiring additional time.*

- Emergency situations will be taken into consideration.:
    - Hospitalization
    - Serious illness
    - Military service obligation
    - Natural disaster
    - Death or serious injury/illness of an immediate family member

    All non-emergent situations will be subjected to the late assignment penalty outlined above.

    Non-emergent situations may include, but are not limited to:
    - Work and/or family obligations
    - Vacations
    - Computer or internet problems
    - Other personal reasons that may interfere with the student's ability to submit

assignments by the due date.

Participation Policy

There are typically eight (8) synchronous weekly or every-other-week live Content Discussion sessions. Attendance of live sessions is expected. However, we understand that work schedules and other circumstances can preclude students from attending every live session. In those situations, students can earn their credit for attendance by watching the recording of the live session and completing a make-up assignment as instructed in the course. Therefore, credit for each live session can be earned by: (1) either attending the session live or (2) watching the recorded session and completing the assignment.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be completed in the learning management system. The quizzes are timed and require students to have adequately studied the material prior to taking each quiz. The utilization of Lockdown Browser and a webcam should be anticipated by students for all quizzes and exams.

Canvas Policy

Students are expected to log in to Canvas and check the Announcements section at least once a week beginning one week before the start of the course. Students must keep their e-mail address current; they are expected to check their Regent e-mail daily to ensure timely receipt of messages from the professor.

For courses with online discussions, they will be posted in Canvas. Unless otherwise instructed, the student's postings have word limits. The purpose of these parameters is to promote writing that is both thorough and concise. The instructor will post questions and activities weekly. Discussion questions will be posted in advance. Since not everyone will see things identically, students are to review one another's postings to further their insight and learning. This is an important benefit of dialogue.

Note that the expectations for quality work in the Canvas group discussions differ from the *minimal* requirements for attendance.

Please check the navigation menus on the Regent student home page and in Canvas for University Library and Academic Support information, Student Services, Canvas Tutorials and Resources, and Disability Services, among others.

Some basic computer skills you are expected to have mastered before taking an online course include the following: sending and receiving emails, opening or sending an email attachment, searching the Internet, using Microsoft Word, and downloading files. Numerous online tutorials are available to teach you how to use Canvas, When you log into Canvas, access the RU Resources tab at the top right of your screen.

If you have technical problems with the LMS and/or are not able to log in, please contact the Help Desk/IT department. You can e-mail the Help Desk at: helpdesk@regent.edu or call at (757) 352-4076.

Student Expectations

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Regent University nursing student to adhere to the Regent University Code of Conduct and to the policies and procedures described in this Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to periodically check the student handbook for changes and updates.

Online Learning Responsibility / Email Etiquette

Regent University DNP Nursing students must also demonstrate academic readiness and technological proficiency.

- Academic Readiness- It is the responsibility of the student to have the supplies necessary to participate in the online environment and clinical setting. This includes but is not limited to a computer, secure internet connection, and Microsoft Word software.
- Technology Proficiency- All Regent University students should demonstrate a minimum level of technological proficiency to be successful in the online environment. The Help Desk is available to students via telephone at 757-352-4076.
- Email Etiquette – Students are expected to read and, when appropriate, respond to emails within 24 hours. Email will be utilized as the standard mode of communication and will be utilized to disseminate changes. The students' Regent University email address will be used for all communication.

Course Expectations

Didactic courses will occur via the online learning platform in Canvas. The instructor will closely monitor student engagement and attendance. Assessments will include dialogues, quizzes/tests, presentations, case studies, and presentations. It is the responsibility of the student to access the course at least once weekly to be considered present. Attendance and participation policies are clearly outlined in the course syllabi.

Digital Clinical Experience

Digital Clinical Experiences (DCE) are utilized in some courses. Students are expected to participate in the DCE as assigned. These experiences prepare students for the practicum. Learning from the Shadow Health modules and other class assignments should be incorporated into the practicum experience to meet the course objectives. Students will receive a PIN number in the specific class.

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Student Evaluation

At the end of each course, students are given the opportunity to evaluate the course and the instructor/s. Evaluations will be reviewed by faculty and leadership. Evaluations will be used to continually improve the program.

Access To Records (FERPA)

FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records and information. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. The rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Please see http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html. Faculty must have documented written permission from a student before speaking to a parent/spouse regarding the student's education record or academic progress.

Academic Advising

Students will have access to an academic advisor and faculty mentor upon admission to the University. The advisor and nursing faculty collaborate to ensure the best experience possible for the student. Students have assigned faculty mentors who provide academic direction, feedback and monitoring of student progress as they matriculate through the program. Mentor assignments are managed by the programs. Any time a student fails a course or required clinical task, the evaluating faculty member should also enter an alert in Advise even if that faculty member is not assigned as a student's mentor. The Advising office can be reached by email at advising@regent.edu.

Student Grievance And Appeals Procedure

Student appeals and grievances must follow the procedures as outlined in the Regent University Student Handbook.

Appendix A

Progression Policy Acknowledgement

Regent University School of Nursing DNP

Progression Policy

1. Students in graduate nursing programs must meet the requirements of the School of Graduate Studies to remain in good standing. An overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better must be maintained to continue in the DNP program.

2. In addition, a nursing student must achieve a "B" or better in every graduate nursing course. If a student achieves a failing grade in a nursing course, they must repeat that course when it is next offered to remain in the program.

3. If a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, she/he will be placed on academic probation the following semester. If the student does not achieve a 3.0 cumulative grade point average after one probationary semester, the Director of the School of Nursing will determine if the student should be dismissed from graduate study or continue on academic probation. No student will be allowed more than two probationary semesters, whether consecutive or cumulative. At the end of a second probationary semester, a student whose cumulative grade point average is still below 3.0 will be dismissed from graduate study.

4. Students whose performance results in a GPA so far below 3.0 as to make it mathematically impossible to attain an overall GPA of 3.0 after one semester may be subject to dismissal without a probationary term.

5. An incomplete grade ("I") indicates that the student was passing the course at the end of the semester but, due to circumstances beyond the student's control, was unable to complete the course work for which the "I" is assigned. The "I" grade cannot be used to allow a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade or to repeat a course.

6. Students must maintain an unencumbered registered nurse license in all states where they are currently licensed throughout the duration of the graduate program and in the state(s) where they fulfill clinical course requirements. If at any time during enrollment in the graduate program, a student's nursing license becomes encumbered, suspended, or revoked, the student must immediately report this to the Director of the School of Nursing. If a student's registered nurse license is suspended or revoked, or a student fails to report any changes in licensure status to the Director of the School of Nursing, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the graduate program. A student's ability to continue enrollment in the graduate program with an encumbered license will be reviewed individually considering the restriction/limitations placed on the student's practice as a registered nurse by the board of nursing in the state issuing the encumbered license.

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7. W/F will be treated as unsuccessful attempts in nursing courses.

8. Students can only enroll in a nursing course twice.

I have read and understand the expectations and regulations of the Regent University Graduate Nursing Progression Policy.

_____

Printed Name   Date

_____

Signature

Appendix B

Regent University's SoN Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

Information Packet Protecting the Privacy of Patient's Health Information

Overview: The first-ever federal privacy standards to protect patient's medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers took effect on April 14, 2003. Developed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), these new standards provide patients with access to their medical records and more control over how their personal health information is used and disclosed. They represent a uniform, federal base of privacy protections for consumers across the county. State laws providing additional protections to consumers are not affected by this new rule.

The HIPAA legislation had four primary objectives:

1. Assure health insurance portability by eliminating some instances of failure to insure due to pre-existing conditions.
2. Reduce healthcare fraud and abuse.
3. Enforce standards for health information.
4. Guarantee security and privacy of health information.

Congress called on HHS to issue patient privacy protections as part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). HIPAA included provisions designed to encourage electronic transactions and also required new safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of health information.

Patient Protections:

The new privacy regulations ensure a national floor of privacy protections for patients by limiting the ways that health plans, pharmacies, hospitals, and other covered entities can use patients' personal medical information. The regulations protect medical records and other individually identifiable health information, whether it is on paper, in computers, or communicated orally. Key provisions of these new standards include:

- *Access to Medical Records.* Patients generally should be able to see and obtain copies of their medical records and request corrections if they identify errors. Health plans, doctors, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other covered entities generally should provide access to these records within 30 days and may charge patients for the cost of copying and sending the records.

- *Notice of Privacy Practices.* Covered health plans, doctors, and other health care providers must provide a notice to their patients how they may use personal medical information and their rights under the new regulation. Patients will be asked to sign, initial, or otherwise acknowledge that they received this notice.

- *Limits on Use of Personal Medical Information.* The privacy rule sets limits on how health plans and covered providers may use individually identifiable health information. To promote the best quality care for patients, the rule does not restrict the ability of doctors, nurses, or

other health care providers to share information needed to treat their patients. In other situations, though, personal health information generally may not be used for purposes not related to health care, and covered entities may use or share only the minimum amount of protected information needed for a

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particular purpose. In addition, patients would have to sign a specific authorization before a covered entity could release their medical information to a life insurer, a bank, a marketing firm or another outside business for purposes not related to their health care.

- *Prohibition on Marketing.* The privacy rule sets new restrictions and limits on the use of patient information for marketing purposes. Pharmacies, health plans, and other covered entities must first obtain an individual's specific authorization before disclosing their patient information for marketing. At the same time, the rule permits doctors and other covered entities to communicate freely with patients about treatment options and other health-related information, including disease management programs.

- *Stronger State Laws.* The new federal privacy standards do not affect state laws that provide additional privacy protections for patients. They confidentiality protections are cumulative; the privacy rule will set a nations "floor" of privacy standards that protect all Americans, and any state law providing additional protections would continue to apply. When a sate law requires a certain disclosure---such as reporting an infectious disease outbreak to the public health authorities---the federal privacy regulations would not preempt the state law.

- *Confidential Communications.* Under the privacy rule, patients can request that their doctors, health plans, and other covered entities take reasonable steps to ensure that their communications with the patient are confidential. For example, a patient could ask a doctor to call his or her office rather than home, and the doctor's office should comply with that request if it can be reasonably accommodated.

- *Complaints*. Consumers may file a formal complaint regarding the privacy practices of a covered health plan or provider. Such complaints can be made directly to the covered provider or health plan or to HHS' Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which is charged with investigating compiling and enforcing the privacy regulations.

Information about filing complaints should be included in each covered entity's notice or privacy practices. NOTE: 866-627-7748 or http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa

Civil and Criminal Penalties. Congress provided civil and criminal penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information. Penalties may range from $100 per violation up to $25,000 per year for each requirement or prohibition violated. A more severe penalty may be levied (up to $250,000 and 10 years in prison) if the offenses are committed with the intent to sell, transfer, or use protected health information for commercial advantage, personal gain, or malicious harm.

A major outcome of HIPAA is the creation of security rules that ensure the safety and privacy of individually identifiable healthcare information and records.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES:

U. S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2003). *Fact sheet: protecting the privacy of patients' health information.* Available online: http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa

University of California, San Francisco. (2002). UCSF Campus & UCSF Medical Center: what is HIPAA? Available online http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/housestaffportal/documents/HIPAA101module.pdf

Appendix C

Acknowledgment of Receipt of HIPAA Privacy Guidelines

I have received a copy of the HIPAA Privacy Guidelines. I have read and understand the privacy regulations

set form in the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of

1996. I will not violate these guidelines in any way when working with clients, patients, or residents in

healthcare facilities.

_____

Signature

_____

Printed Name

_____

Date

Appendix D

Note of Concern

Student Name:
Faculty Name:
Date:
Course (if applicable):

The Note of Concern refers to the initial point of contact when concerns about student's professional behavior or academic performance have been observed by faculty/instructor. This form is to serve primarily as a communication tool. The specific categories of concern and observations are noted below.

The note of concern serves to complete four goals:

- Identify the specific area to be addressed by faculty to the student.
- Schedule a meeting with the faculty and student at an agreed-upon time.
- Conduct a meeting with the faculty and student; and
- Determine the need for further action to include a potential remediation plan with specific expectations and timeline for meeting said expectations.

- The Note of Concern remains on file in the School of Nursing until graduation.
- If the Note of Concern is completed satisfactorily, the Note of Concern will reflect student improvement.
- If unsatisfactory resolution of the Note of Concern (a guidance document), the concern may warrant the utilization of additional measures per the Regent University Student Handbook. University Disciplinary actions are reserved for extreme situations yet are available if guidance documents do not yield an appropriate resolution.

1) Identified Areas of Concern and reason for Note of Concern

___Lack of participation in class discussions/collaborate/live content session attendance or alternate assignment.
___Assignment(s) late or missing. Explanation:
___Repeated missed classes/required meetings. Explanation:
___Written and/or oral communication not at graduate level standard. Explanation:

____Response to faculty requests not appropriate/respectful/lacks professionalism
Explanation:

____Inability to be open, flexible, and cooperative.
Explanation:

___Repeated excuses for late or inadequate work
Explanation:

___Amenability to supervision/ Lack of responding to faculty and professional supervision/Inability to be flexible.
Explanation:

___Inability to demonstrate basic clinical skills.
Explanation:

___Persistent difficulties with technology.
Explanation:

☐ 1st Note of Concern   ☐ 2nd Note of Concern

2) Schedule meeting with the faculty and student at an agreed-upon time

3) Conduct a meeting with the faculty and student.
☐ Conference with Faculty/Instructor Scheduled:

☐ Student refused to meet or sign the Note of Concern:

Instructions: Clearly indicate the expectation to be taken by the student with the following timeline: initial task & begin date, mid-review (and follow up meeting), and expected completion date

4) Professor Recommendations & Collaborative Action Plan to be taken by student:

☐ Referred to Writing Center for assistance with writing skills/paper preparation

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Referred to Writing Mentor to assist in more detailed and comprehensive remediation for writing skills development

☐ Remedial work or additional assignments to include: Referred to
☐ outside counseling
☐ Other (Specify):

_____

Begin Date:

Mid-Review Date: Meeting Scheduled? ☐ Yes ☐ No   If no, reason:

Expected Completion:

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/UNDERSTANDING of RECOMMENDATIONS

☐	I have met with the faculty and discussed the recommendations. I understand and agree to complete the steps required.
☐	I have met with the faculty and do not agree with the recommendations and requirements. I understand that this concern may be upgraded to a Professional Development Form (PDF) and subsequent meetings.

The Note of Concern is intended to guide students and give them an opportunity to improve before their academic progress is affected. If a student does not sign and return the NOC in 7 days, it may result in the receipt of a Professional Development Form.

_____   _____
Student Signature   Date

_____   _____
Faculty Signature   Date

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Instructor: Please send this completed form to the Director of Nursing

Appendix E

DNP Handbook Signature Page

I,_____, have read the DNP Student Handbook in its entirety. I understand that I am bound to the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook and those in the University Catalog and Regent University Student Handbook.

I have read and understand the Progression Policy_____(initial)

I have read and understand that while didactic courses are in an asynchronous online format, per CCNE requirements, I must complete clinical hours._____(initial)

I have read and understand the necessity of medical clearance prior to obtaining clinical hours. Medical clearance will be documented and reviewed by the Clinical Clearance Coordinator_____(initial)

I understand that a background check and drug screening will be complete using the tracking database program prior to obtaining clinical hours._____
(initial)

_____

Student Name

_____   _____

Student Signature   Date

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