MSN School of Nursing Graduate Information Guide (GIG)

A Guide for Students in the Master of Science in Nursing Program Option

Arkansas State University

School of Nursing

College of Nursing and Health Professions

The Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, master's/post-master's certificate, clinical doctorate programs at Arkansas State University located in State University, AR and West Memphis, AR are accredited by the: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400 Atlanta, GA 30326

(404) 975-5000

The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, master's/post-master's certificate, clinical doctorate programs is continuing accreditation.

View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program on the ACEN website.

GRADUATE INFORMATION

The Graduate Information Guide (GIG) is to advise the graduate nursing student (MSN and DNP) of policies, procedures and other information unique to the graduate nursing program.

For general information, students are referred to the A-State *Graduate Bulletin* and the A-

State *Student Handbook*. The GIG is a supplement to and not a substitute for, the Arkansas State University Graduate Bulletin. While every effort is made to keep this document current, students are encouraged to direct any questions about the program and its requirements to their advisor, the Graduate Program Director, or the Nursing Department Chairperson at Post Office Box 910, College of Nursing and Health Professions, State University, AR 72467, (870) 972-3074. The Office of Admissions and Records can be reached at (870) 972-3024 or by writing to Post Office Box 1630, State University, AR 72467.

INTRODUCTION

MSN SPECIALIZATION

The majors offered at the MSN level include the following options:

- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nurse Educator (NE) and Graduate Certificate
- Nurse Administrator (NADM) and Graduate Certificate
- Post Master Certificate (PMC) – FNP/AGACNP/PMHNP
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

SCHOOL OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the School of Nursing is to educate, enhance and enrich students for evolving professional nursing practice.

THE CORE VALUES

The School of Nursing values the following as fundamentals:

- **Integrity**: Purposeful decision to consistently demonstrate truth and honesty.
- **Excellence**: Highest quality of nursing education, practice, service, and research.
- **Access and Engagement:** Respect for varied dimensions of individuality among populations. We embrace diversity in all of its dimensions realizing that mutual respect for individuality and the inclusion of all are vital for both personal and institutional success.
- **Service**: Professional experience in response to the needs of society.
- **Learning**: Acquisition of knowledge and skills in critical thinking, practical reasoning, and decision making.
- **Student Centered**: Development of essential skills for lifelong learning, leadership,

School of Nursing Philosophy for Nursing Education

Central to our philosophy for nursing education are four widely accepted metaparadigms of the nursing profession: person, environment, health, and nursing. Each may be defined in many ways. The works of Virginia Henderson (1972), Callista Roy (1991), Betty Neuman (1993), and Madeleine Leininger (1991) among others drive our understanding of these concepts.

A **person** may be defined as an individual, family, group, or community (Leininger, 1991) comprised of biological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and spiritual constituents (Henderson, 1972; Neuman, 1993). Each person has innate worth, and though each is unique, all possess characteristics of shared basic human needs. We believe that a person's individual experiences, genetics, culture and existence are dependent on perception of and reaction to change. Inherent in this process is the capacity to make decisions, consider alternatives, and predict and accept possible outcomes.

Environment may be defined as internal, external, and created (Henderson, 1972; Neuman, 1993) conditions, circumstances, influences, events, situations, or experiences (Leininger, 1991; Roy, 1991) that surround the person or are within the person and affect development, behavior, and resources. The environment affects the ability of the person to pursue and achieve a high quality of life. Society and culture drive the need for order, meaning, and affiliations with other humans. These, along with physical and biological forces stimulate a need for adaptation and, potentially, interactions with others in order to survive, develop, grow, and mature.

We understand **health** to be a continuum of wholeness and integrity defined by culture, values, and practices (Leininger, 1991; Neuman, 1993). Often expressed in terms of wellness and illness or absence of disease or injury, health is based largely upon the person's ability to function independently in their environment (Henderson, 1972; The Nurse of the Future: Nursing Core Competencies, 2016). The ability of a person to achieve an optimal level of wellness depends on motivation, knowledge, ability to cope, and developmental status. The primary responsibility for one's health rests on the individual and/or those upon whom the individual is dependent.

We believe each person has the right to receive quality healthcare with a goal of promotion, maintenance, or restoration of optimal health. Nurses are advocates, integral in assisting persons

to gain access to and secure maximum benefit from use of the healthcare system. Complexity of healthcare systems and client needs require nurses to advocate for clients and collaborate with other healthcare professionals to provide optimal healthcare.

Nursing is both an art and science and can be defined as activities aimed to assist, support, and promote adaptation of individuals and groups (Leininger, 1991; Roy, 1991) in performance of activities (Henderson, 1972) by assessing behaviors and factors that alter the ability to adapt (Roy, 1991). Nursing is an altruistic discipline evolved from the study and application of its own interventions as well as application of knowledge from other disciplines. Nursing is focused on provision of care across the health continuum using systematic processes, and practice is refined based on societal needs. Thus, nursing enhances the environment and contributes to health, quality of life, and dying with dignity (Roy, 1991).

Nursing education must prepare professional nurses for traditional and evolving roles. The faculty recognizes the obligation of the nursing curriculum to include leadership, strategies that promote change, professionalism and service. A wide variety of types of nurses are needed to fulfill the needs of our communities. These types include, but are not limited to, registered nurses (RN), RNs certified in their specialty, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Educators, Nurse Administrators, Nurse Leaders, and Nurse Anesthetists. Therefore, nursing education must be provided at various levels. To acquire the knowledge and judgement necessary for practice, nursing education focuses on critical thinking, decision-making, analysis, inquiry, and research. The faculty also believes that learning is a life-long process, often conducted independently of formal educational settings. Formal educational settings provide opportunities for teacher-student interaction in setting goals, selecting and evaluating learning experiences, and appraising learners' progress. All levels of nursing education share certain rights, duties, and characteristics, such as the scientific basis of nursing care. Accordingly, we actively support the endeavors of the profession to assist nurses in pursuing professional education from beginning to advanced levels.

The school of nursing provides education at four levels: the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN); the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN); the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN); and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

The purpose of the AASN is to prepare graduates capable of applying the nursing process to provision of direct nursing care for clients with common, well-defined problems. Therefore, the associate curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts and includes professional values, core competencies, core knowledge, and role development. An associate degree graduate is prepared to function as a member of the profession and a manager of care in acute and community-based settings.

The nurse prepared with a BSN is a professional who has acquired a broad, yet well-delineated knowledge base for practice. We believe that the role of a baccalaureate graduate is multifaceted and developed through extensive study in the areas of liberal education, professional values, core competencies, core knowledge, and role development. These prepare the baccalaureate graduate to function as a provider of direct and indirect care to individuals, families, groups, communities and populations. A graduate of the baccalaureate program is a member of the profession and a designer, manager, and coordinator of care.

Master’s level (MSN) education prepares nurses who have already achieved their baccalaureate degree for advanced nursing practice. Preparation for advanced practice emphasizes strategies to intervene in multidimensional situations. The knowledge base is expanded in scope and depth through scientific, theoretical and research components of nursing. Various theories inherent in advanced practice roles and strategies are analyzed and explored to synthesize the interdependence of theory, practice, and scientific inquiry in nursing. This synthesis of knowledge and experience provides the basis for creating, testing, predicting, and utilizing varied and complex interventions for problems of healthcare and healthcare delivery. A graduate of the master’s program is a leader in the profession and is prepared as an independent coordinator of care.

The DNP prepares master’s level nurses with advanced leadership skills, increased knowledge of health policy, and increased clinical skills and expertise with which to provide care, especially in rural and underserved areas. They are prepared to initiate and to lead implementation of changes required by the evolving healthcare system. They are prepared to analyze and expand boundaries in order to become transformational leaders driving innovation and excellence in healthcare for their communities, region, nation, and the world.

The DNP in Nurse Anesthesia prepares baccalaureate nurses with critical care experience and a working knowledge of pathophysiology, pharmacology, and anatomy/physiology to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). They are educated in the roles of advanced leadership, health policy, clinical skills, and expertise to provide care in the full scope of practice in anesthesia care throughout the lifespan. They are prepared to initiate and to lead implementation of changes required by the evolving healthcare system. They are prepared to analyze and expand boundaries in order to become transformational leaders driving innovation and excellence in healthcare for their communities, region, nation, and the world.

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SCHOOL OF NURSING ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK

The organizing framework of the nursing department is derived from the philosophy and has four major components. The four components are role, process, values and knowledge. These components are taught at each level of education and provide a construct for development of objectives and outcomes. The framework model clearly shows how each of the components increases in complexity at the three levels of education.

ROLE

The first major component is role. The faculty believe provider of care, manager of care and member of the profession (NLN) are key elements of this component. To clearly explain how these roles develop, each will be examined at all three levels.

At the associate degree level, emphasis is placed on providing and managing direct care to individuals with common well-defined problems. The associate degree graduate functions as a

team member using nursing diagnoses and established protocols for individuals in acute care and community-based settings. Additionally, the graduate participates as a member of the profession in appropriate specialty and politically focused nursing organizations.

The baccalaureate degree nurse provides direct and indirect nursing care to individuals, families, groups and populations. The baccalaureate graduate has the ability to individualize nursing diagnoses and protocols to enhance the design and coordination of preventative, complex and restorative care. As a member of professional organizations, the graduate has the capacity to assume leadership and advocacy roles.

The master's graduate can function independently in the provision for direct and indirect care.

Practice settings for the master's prepared graduate are multi-dimensional. Inherent is the ability to design, facilitate and coordinate care for individuals in a variety of health care settings. Graduates have the skills necessary to lead effect policy and mentor as members of specialty and politically focused nursing organizations.

The Post Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate functions independently in the provision of direct and indirect, systems-focused care. The DNP graduate is active in evaluating existing health care systems and initiating changes to meet the needs of individuals, families, groups, and populations. Practice settings for the DNP prepared graduate are multi-dimensional and are not limited to existing or prescribed health care settings. Graduates have the skills to initiate change, lead and serve as mentors for other health care team members at the local, regional, state, national and world levels.

KNOWLEDGE

The second major component is knowledge. The general education curriculum provides a foundation of liberal arts and sciences for the associate and baccalaureate students. These courses help provide the basic psychosocial, spiritual, humanistic, and legal components which assist students in developing an appreciation of each person's interaction with the environment. The knowledge gained enhances the nurse's ability to think critically, reason logically, and communicate effectively.

The associate degree core focuses on liberal arts and sciences, which include courses in English, college mathematics, basic biological science, history, and psychology. Content for the associate degree student provides basic nursing knowledge that is applied to common well- defined problems.

The baccalaureate student's general education core is expanded to provide a more in-depth science basis and global view of society. These courses include physical sciences, sociology, world civilization and humanities. Pathophysiology and statistics are incorporated into the nursing curriculum as the student progresses into complex nursing theory and application.

The master's program builds on the baccalaureate curriculum. Core graduate courses include theory, research, role, and health policy. These courses prepare the master's graduate to integrate the other components of role, process, and values. The key support courses for all options include

advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced health assessment/physical diagnosis. Content in specialty courses reinforces concepts in the core courses as well as preparing the graduate for advanced nursing.

The Post Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice curricula builds on traditional master's programs with education in evidenced based practice, advanced clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills to design and implement programs of care delivery. Translation of research into practice will significantly impact health care outcomes and have the potential to transform health care delivery.

VALUES

Faculty defines the third component, values, as the system of beliefs that guide behaviors, attitudes and moral judgment. Personal values reflect cultural and social influences, relationships and individual needs. Professional values guide nurses' behavior to act in a manner consistent with nursing responsibilities and standards of practice. We believe professional values can be formed through reasoning, observation and experience. The associate graduate possesses an awareness of personal values and how these values may influence care delivery.

Additionally, the associate graduate incorporates professional values in assisting individuals with the process of value clarification that may impact health care decisions. The baccalaureate graduate has a global perspective and is able to help individuals clarify or re-prioritize personal values, minimize conflict and achieve consistency between values and behaviors related to health. The masters' prepared graduate applies professional values when designing health care systems in response to societal need. The master's graduate is able to engage in activities that influence policies and service delivery to diverse populations in a variety of settings. The Doctor graduate is prepared as the nursing terminal degree that encompasses all professional role expectations in nursing. Personal values are applied when evaluating and designing health care systems, as well as leading the change of health care systems in response to research translation, population health, and needed policy development.

The profession of nursing utilizes a systematic process that incorporates the other three components, role, knowledge and values to evaluate the needs of individuals, groups and/or communities. The process involves assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation on a continual basis. All nurses are prepared to use this process but as one acquires additional knowledge, the nurse begins to use the components of the process in unique and creative ways. As one moves through the educational program, elements such as communicating, educating, supporting, coaching and monitoring are incorporated into the process. Additionally, problem solving, planning, inquiry, and appraisal are used to derive and evaluate the interventions developed.

The associate degree graduate uses a systematic process in nursing care to implement and modify known nursing interventions. The baccalaureate prepared graduate has the capability of anticipating, individualizing, implementing, and evaluating various interventions according to unique situations and cultural responses. The master's graduate generates and designs nursing interventions. The master's graduate recognizes interdependence of theory, practice and scientific inquiry when creating, predicting, and evaluating interventions that are complex and varied. The

Doctor graduate leads and collaborates change for improved healthcare systems and designs systems for improved population health based on research translation. At all levels relevant research literature is utilized in the application of the nursing process.

ADMISSION

To establish unconditional admission at the graduate degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average. Please refer to each program for program specific admission requirements.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION'S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAM OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.

****ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE AND ARE BASED ON POSTED ADMISSION CRITERIA.***

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Admission Requirements are found in the Graduate Bulletin: Students seeking admission into the Master of Science in Nursing programs, or the Doctor of Nursing Practice must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate School and the specific MSN or DNP program requirements. Visit A-State Graduate Admissions for admission requirements.

Online Graduate Programs (FNP, AGACNP, PMHNP, Nurse Administrator, Nurse Educator, DNP PM)

Arkansas State University Online Services

P.O. Box 2520,

State University, AR 72467

astateonline@astate.edu (870) 972-2920

Admission requirements may be found on the of Nursing website:

https://www.astate.edu/college/conhp/departments/nursing/index.dot

CLINICAL AGENCY DISMISSAL POLICY

Students dismissed or removed from clinical agencies at the request of the preceptor or contracting agency will be placed on probation for no less than one (1) month. Faculty will make every attempt to locate another suitable clinical practice site. Faculty will work with students to produce a plan of action for students to correct the behavior that led to dismissal. By the end of the probationary period, students must demonstrate improvement or correction of the behavior that led to dismissal. If the student fails to improve or demonstrate correction of the behavior that led to removal, dismissal from the program can result.

**IF THE STUDENT IS REMOVED FROM A CLINICAL AGENCY A SECOND TIME, THEY WILL FAIL THE COURSE.*

GENERAL DISMISSAL POLICY

A student may be asked to leave the nursing program regardless of academic grade if any of the following conditions exist:

1. Demonstrated lack of aptitude for advanced practice in nursing.
2. Failure to exhibit behavior of:
    1. Integrity
    2. Dependability and accountability
    3. Concern for human and societal needs. (see Honor Code)
3. Clinical nursing performance that jeopardizes safety of patients.
4. Physical or emotional condition of a nature that affects, or is affected by, one's performance in nursing.
5. Failure to conform to the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession.
6. Having excessive absences, or inadequate clinical contact hours obtained throughout clinical rotation (see attendance policy).

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

The School of Nursing requires a high level of proficiency in English so that all students will be able to fully meet academic and clinical objectives as well as meet criteria for professional licensure. All foreign-born students and nurses must take one of the following tests:

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 83 on the preferred internet- based test (iBT), 570 on the paper-based test, or 213 on the computer-based test.
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of at least 6.5 and a spoken band score of 7.
3. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) with a score of 56.

The TOEFL is available at the ASU Testing Center. When taking the exam off campus, the report code for ASU is 6011.

Who does this apply to?

The term foreign born refers to people residing in the United States who were not U.S. citizens at birth. The foreign-born population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent immigrants, refugees and asylees, legal non-immigrants (including those on student, work, or other temporary visas), and persons residing in the country without authorization. In contrast, the term native born refers to people residing in the United States who were.

U.S. citizens in one of three categories: 1) born in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia; 2) born in United States Insular areas such as Puerto Rico or Guam; 3) born abroad to at least one U. S. citizen parent.

Exemption

You may be exempt for the English proficiency testing if you are foreign born but attended school in the United States since kindergarten. For the exemption you must provide official school records showing continuous enrollment in U. S. schools since kindergarten.

English as a Second Language

Students who do not meet the required English language proficiency may enroll in ASU's English as a Second Language (ESL) program in the International Center for English. Potential nursing students enrolled in the ESL program must maintain an average of 85 or higher in levels 0 through 4. In the final or 5th level of the ESL program an average of 90 or higher must be maintained. On completion of the ESL program, the potential nursing student must take the internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Upon successfully meeting the proficiency requirement, potential students are eligible to apply to the School of Nursing.

For questions or equivalencies with other tests of English language proficiency please contact the School of Nursing at 870-972-3074.

STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY CONTRACT

The confidentiality of patients admitted to contracted clinical agencies of the School of Nursing at Arkansas State University is protected by state and federal laws as well as treatment center policy and ethical consideration. Any student who breaches confidentiality is subject to immediate termination from the clinical rotation. Such disclosure is also subject to applicable laws and regulations. All information regarding patients is considered confidential. This includes the following:

1. The fact that the individual is a patient at a contracted clinical agency.
2. The patient's name, address, employer, etc.
3. The nature of the patient's illness or reason for admission to the treatment center.

Students are not allowed to discuss patients with individuals in the community and are not allowed to discuss patients in patient/public areas within the treatment center. This includes any pictures made with electronic devices of patients or patient documents. Prior to the start of the clinical

rotation, each student will receive a briefing regarding confidentiality from the clinical instructor and must comply with HIPAA law.

CPR CERTIFICATION POLICY

All students are required to show proof of professional level CPR certification (adult, children, and infants) before the first day of clinical courses. It is the student's responsibility to provide the graduate advisor/course faculty and/or MSN/DNP Office with a photocopy of the current certification.

LICENSURE AND COMPACT STATES POLICY

All students are required to provide a copy of a current license to practice. A copy of a current unencumbered state R.N. License must be in the student's files. An R.N. license in the state of practice or a compact state license is required of all students enrolled in clinical courses.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DRUG SCREENS

Arkansas law requires that applicants for licensure, including advanced practice licensure, submit to criminal background checks. Verified Credentials is the resource that students are required to submit. Payment for Verified Credentials is the student's responsibility (prior to admission to program). Each Graduate program may utilize different companies for preclinical background checks and or drug screens as well as random drug screens throughout the program. See individual Graduate program policies for background checks and drug screens. Students graduating and planning on applying for advanced practice licensure should submit applications four (4) to six (6) months in advance of graduation to allow time for processing.

The School of Nursing expects students to reflect professionalism and maintain high standards of appearance and grooming in the clinical setting.

1. All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed.
2. A name tag will be worn identifying the student as an A-State student. Name tags can be ordered through the A-State bookstore. A-State ID badges are to be worn as required by the clinical facilities.
3. Hair must be neat; clean; away from face; men are to be clean shaven, or beards closely trimmed.
4. Fingernails must be short and clean. Clear or light colored, non-gel nail polish is acceptable. No artificial nails permitted.
5. Wedding rings, engagement rings and watches are the only jewelry appropriate for the clinical setting. If ears are pierced, one pair of posts or small loop earrings is allowed. No facial or tongue jewelry is allowed.
6. Any visible tattoo must be covered and not visible to patients or providers.
7. Personal hygiene must always be maintained. No cologne, perfume or aftershave should be worn in the clinical setting.
8. Chewing gum is not allowed in clinical areas.

9. If a student's level of personal hygiene or style of appearance constitutes an unprofessional image or interferes with the ability to provide safe nursing care, the student may be requested, at the discretion of the clinical preceptor, to leave the clinical area and correct the identified deficiency. The student will receive no credit for the time missed correcting such deficiencies.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

In the event an institution requests drug testing, students will be responsible for the cost. Immediate compliance is expected and required, and any delayed days of clinical attendance will be a violation, subject to dismissal from the program.

IMMUNIZATIONS POLICY

In addition to the university requirement for measles\rubella, nursing graduate students are required to have a photocopy of immunizations on file with the graduate advisor before the first clinical course. These immunizations are Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or documented history of Hepatitis infection or antibody positive titer and a tetanus booster within the past 10 years. TB testing: PPD skin test or T-SPOT is required upon admission. A chest x-ray is required if PPD or T- SPOT is positive. Additional screening and/or testing may be required depending upon clinical guidelines. Annual influenza immunizations are required by many sites.

Students must adhere to the policies of the assigned clinical site in regard to the requirement of the influenza vaccination. (See appendix I for COVID statement)

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

All graduate students must have professional liability insurance for advanced nursing practice (MSN & DNP) prior to the first clinical nursing course. Coverage must be for a minimum of

$1,000,000/$3,000,000. A copy of the policy page containing the student's name, policy limits and effective dates should be filed with the School of Nursing office. Malpractice Insurance Policy must state program option (Ex: FNP Student; AGACNHP Student; DNP Student, CRNA Student)

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students should read carefully the University Student Handbook sections on "academic responsibilities of the student, the academic rights of the student," and "academic misconduct."

These sections will assist you in being more informed as to the student's role and options.

See Arkansas State University Student Handbook “Academic Rights and Responsibilities.”

Arkansas State University enthusiastically promotes academic integrity and professional ethics among all members of the A-State academic community. Violations of this policy are considered as serious misconduct and may result in disciplinary action and severe penalties.

COLLEGE CODE OF HONOR POLICY

Each student admitted to a professional program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions is charged with the responsibility of honorable conduct. A student is assumed honorable until his/her actions prove otherwise. An honor offense is defined as an intentional act of lying, cheating, or stealing. Formal procedures exist for violations of the Honor Code.

Lying is a false statement (written or oral) made with the deliberate intent to deceive; something intended to or serving to convey a false impression.

Cheating is to practice fraud or deceit; academic fraud is a form of cheating and includes such things as plagiarism (including Internet resources), false citations, false data, and submission of the same work to fulfill academic requirements in multiple classes.

Stealing is to take the property of others without permission or right; to take ideas, credits, or words without right or acknowledgement; to accept credit for another's work.

As a student in a health program, it is fundamental that you act in an honorable and virtuous way so that a community of trust is established among members of the college and your clients. Honor is a practiced ideal that will positively impact your relationship with fellow students, faculty, administrators, patients and other members of the community.

All students in The College of Nursing and Health Professions are bound by the Honor Code and all are needed to make it work. The atmosphere of trust and integrity that is created by an honor system enables the student to know his/her word will be taken as true, to compete fairly in the classroom and to protect what is rightfully his/hers. The system functions best when all members of the college not only take responsibility for their own actions but hold their peers to the same standards.

As a student admitted to a health professions program, you must agree to live by and support the basic principles of honesty - no lying, cheating or stealing; be accountable for your actions; and share information about honor offenses. If you are not prepared to accept these responsibilities, you should select another career choice.

I have read the explanation of the College Code of Honor and I understand that, as an admitted student in any of the programs in the college, I have accepted the pledge of honor and will be expected to meet the standards as set forward. The form provided with this statement must be signed and submitted to the MSN/DNP Office to be admitted or remain in the academic programs of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

ADVISEMENT AND REGISTRATION POLICY

Advising is mandatory in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The advisor places a hold on registration each term until students have been advised after which the advisor will clear the student for registration. Students should meet with an assigned advisor to plan a program of study.

Each student is assigned an advisor who will work with the student in planning for transition through the program. **ADVISEES SHOULD CONSULT THEIR ADVISOR PRIOR TO REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES.** Additional meetings may be held if deemed necessary by advisee, advisor or both. Meeting may be face-to-face, virtual, phone, email, or equivalent correspondence.

At the time scheduled for pre-registration for the University as a whole, students should follow the registration format as outlined in the semester schedule of classes. Advisors will post hours when they will be available for student advisement.

Students are responsible for their own education. Each student is given a curriculum plan (located in the A-State Graduate Bulletin) which clearly outlines the requirements of the program, semester by semester. Additional pertinent information is provided in the University Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of the student to know and to follow the requirements, policies and procedures contained in this handbook. As new policies and procedures are adopted by the faculty, students will be provided this information. Notice will be provided via courses enrolled, on Program List-Serv, or other. See CNHP and SON website for new information.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) POLICY

Student with Disability: Access and Accommodation Services is responsible for the coordination and provision of support services to students with disabilities. We strive to ensure access for students with disabilities and to comply with ADA, ADAAA amendments act of 2008, Section 504 and Section 508 of Rehabilitation Act. Any A-State student with a disability may utilize services through DS. More information is available at: https://www.astate.edu/disability or by calling 870-972- 3964. Any student in this program who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully participating in this program should contact Access and Accommodation Services as soon as possible so necessary accommodations to facilitate your educational opportunities.

Faculty members are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing **authorized documentation** through designated administrative channels. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Disabilities Office provided on campus.

APA FORMAT POLICY

APA style manual will be used for all Graduate courses. A current APA Manual is required.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular class and clinical attendance is expected of all students in accord with the policy set forth in both the current academic year Graduate Bulletin and Student Handbook of the University. Students have the responsibility for making arrangements satisfactory to the faculty member regarding all absences. Such arrangements should be made prior to the absence. Make up policy is course specific.

Students are expected to be present and on time for each clinical learning experience. If it is necessary to be absent for adequate reasons, the primary clinical faculty, the clinical area, and clinical preceptor should be notified no later than one hour before the clinical experience is scheduled.

Absences and tardiness interfere with meeting course objectives and attaining clinical competence. Consequently, absences and tardiness will be reflected in the evaluation of the student's ability to meet objectives and may be cause for the student's record to be reviewed by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee. In the event of the inability to complete required course work, the student may contract with the course instructor to receive a grade of incomplete.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Cell phones and other electronic devices (includes telephone accessories) may not be visible or audible in the classroom. If your phone rings during class, you will be asked to leave and not return. Family emergency calls can be routed through the School of Nursing office. Any use of cell phones or other Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) that could be used as a mechanism for dishonorable conduct in the classroom (cheating, plagiarism, or other) will not be tolerated and the student may be dismissed from the class and program.

Cell phones are not allowed in the clinical setting for personal use, which includes calls and texting. Use of any PDAs to store/enter any type of patient information is a violation of the Healthcare Information Portability Accessibility Act of 1996 (HIPAA). PDAs' /cell phones may be used as a student resource, essentially as a textbook or calculator ONLY with the approval of the instructor. Taking of photographs in the clinical settings is strictly prohibited.

Violation of any of these policies may lead to a grade of "F" and/or dismissal from the program. Students violating the policy will be referred to the Program Chair. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which promotes a collegiate learning environment. Behaviors and attitudes, which disrupt the learning environment will not be tolerated.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE POLICY

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to provide a mechanism for resolving written complaints lodged against the nursing program or department.

Procedure: All written complaints lodged against the nursing program or department will be resolved through a process listed in the procedure. A written complaint lodged against the program or department by a person(s) directly affected by nursing education or practice such as nursing students, clinical preceptors, hospital personnel, patients, employers of Arkansas State University nursing graduates, or institutions such as health care or higher education systems shall be reviewed and resolved in the following manner:

1. Student complaints lodged against the program regarding grading, disciplinary action, probation, or continuation in the program shall follow the student grievance procedure found in the Arkansas State University Student Handbook

2. Complaints about health care personnel shall be brought to the attention of the department chair, program director, or coordinator. The nursing education administrator will investigate, collect information, propose solutions, and notify the appropriate health care administration and the student of the findings
3. Complaints regarding curriculum and instructional design will be reviewed by the appropriate program curriculum committee
4. Complaints lodged against the program involving litigation or potential litigation will be referred to the Office of Academic Affairs.
5. All other complaints will be investigated by the Program Chair.

Record: The written complaint and a written report of action taken will be filed in the School of Nursing's office. *Approved 8/16/02*

STUDENT RIGHTS AND GRIEVANCE

Students should read carefully the University Student Handbook sections on "Student Rights" and "Grievance Procedure." These sections will assist you in being more informed as to the student's role and options. See *Arkansas State University Student Handbook "Academic Rights and Responsibilities"*.

COMPUTER USAGE POLICY

All Arkansas State University computing facilities, equipment, software and reference manuals are for class use only. *No use of a commercial nature or use for personal gain or profit will be allowed.*

Copying of microcomputer software or related reference manuals for commercial or personal use is a violation of federal copyright laws and will not be allowed. Exceptions to this are those software programs provided by IT services with limited availability to all students enrolled.

Using microcomputers for anything other than educational purposes, such as playing games, will not be allowed.

Using microcomputers and printers to print banners, posters, term papers, resumes, greeting cards, etc. will not be allowed unless it is for an A-State computer or word processing class assignment. A-State is a Microsoft campus. See website for free downloads:

http://www.astate.edu/a/its/software-downloads/index.dot

CURRENT MAILING AND E-MAIL ADDRESS POLICY

All graduate (MSN/DNP) students are required to have their current home address and telephone numbers on file in the Graduate office. All graduate students that are currently enrolled in classes **ARE REQUIRED** to have their own A-State E-Mail account. Due to program and Internet changes within the A-State system, instructors are not able to communicate through NON-ASTATE e-mail accounts. The student is responsible for checking the A-State E-Mail account. It is the student's responsibility to keep their account active and memory available to accept email/communications daily. Arkansas State University has facilities for students to have their own e-mail accounts.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) POLICY

Under federal regulation, all institutions receiving funds from any of 16 federal agencies, including USDA, NASA, NSF, EPA, Department of Education, and NIH, are required to establish institutional review boards to monitor all funded research involving humans. **Human research** is defined as any systematic activity involving the collection and/or analysis of data on human subjects for the purpose of advancing generalizable knowledge, unless this activity is specifically exempted by current federal regulations. It is the policy of this university to apply the regulations to all research and research related activities, funded or not, which involve humans. Copies of the Arkansas State University Institutional Review Board Information Packet are available in the Office of Research and Technology Transfer and available electronically on their website at

https://www.astate.edu/a/ortt/research-compliance/cayuse-irb/

PARKING SERVICES

All students, faculty and staff who park a vehicle on the ASTATE campus are required to register the vehicle and display a sticker. Students can register their vehicle at Parking Services, at 2301 E Johnson, Suite D, Jonesboro, Arkansas. A fee is charged to your account at the Finance Office. For additional information call Parking Services at 870-972- 2945. All distant sites adhere to the parking policies for their campuses.

SMOKING POLICY

Effective August 1, 2010 Arkansas State University became a Smoke Free Campus in response to Arkansas state law, The Arkansas Clean Air On Campus Act of 2009. Further, the School of Nursing prohibits all tobacco products including smoked and smokeless on campuses and in classrooms, computer labs and clinical sites. Please see the University policy regarding vaping and E-cigarettes.

While in the clinical setting, student will comply with the organization’s specific policy. Effective October 1, 2005 Arkansas State law prohibits smoking on any grounds owned by the hospital including, but not limited to, buildings in and on which medical facilities operate together with all property owned by a medical facility that is contiguous to the buildings which medical services are provided.

Any student that smokes on hospital grounds will be subject to that facility’s policy or procedure actions [removal from premises or fined] and will not be allowed to return to the clinical site. This may result in removal from the course.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Social media can be a way to share life experiences and opinions with others. Use of social media presents risks and carries with it certain responsibilities.

Social media includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort via the Internet or other electronic communication method. Social media includes both your personal or someone else’s personal web log/blog, journal, website, or chat room, and group interchanges

such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, or You Tube and social media anonymous sites. These applications are subject to having content transmitted to others, with or without consent from the original author. Additionally, per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) regulations (https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/special-topics/de-identification/index.html), no information, pictures, videos or descriptions of clients/families can be posted on social media sites.

You are solely responsible for what you post online. Inappropriate postings specific to patients, classmates or faculty that include discriminatory remarks, harassment or threats, or violations of professional codes of conduct are subject to disciplinary action. Your actions could adversely affect your standing in your health professions program which could include program dismissal. You should be aware that future employers may view potential candidate's websites. Students are advised to review their site (s) for any unprofessional images or language which could adversely affect successful employment upon graduation. Please make responsible decisions about your use of social media.

Revised 8-12-19

STUDENT CODE OF ETHICS

Students in the graduate program at Arkansas State are held to the ANA Code of Ethics (See Appendix C) for American Nurses Association Code of Ethics.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION TAGS

Students enrolled in the graduate nursing program must obtain a student ID for DNP-CRNA privileges, admission to selected sporting events and for clinical identification. Student ID photos may be obtained during the first week of each semester and by special arrangement. Students are required to wear an A-State name tag during clinical experiences. You may order name tags at astatebookstore.com. Name tag orders may take several weeks to process.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID POLICY

1. Graduate Assistantships –A-State has a limited number of assistantships. Available to students in the nursing program. The student must have applied for admission to the graduate school to be eligible for a graduate assistantship position. Assistantships are available to qualified students in fall, spring, and summer sessions. Applications are through the program director, or the Graduate School.
2. Scholarships – MSN students are eligible for one scholarship(s) offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Notification about scholarships is done through the MSN student listserv and announcements to classes. Scholarship applications are usually filed in Spring Semester of each year.
3. State Scholarship/Loan Funds – A scholarship/loan fund for students residing in Arkansas who, after graduation, practice in a rural area as a NP or teach in an Arkansas school of nursing as a nurse educator. Loan forgiveness is based on fulfilling work obligations as a rural NP or nurse educator. Information and applications are available from the Program

Director.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

[COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFRESSIONS]

The College of Nursing and Health Professions recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment within which students may learn and prepare themselves to become members of a health occupation. Within each profession there are codes and standards for conduct by which all members of the profession are expected to function. Thus, when engaged in educational activities whether on campus or in the clinical setting, health professionals are expected to be free from the abusive influence of chemical substances/drugs**. When students are under the influence of drugs and alcohol, they present a threat to patients, other students and the employees and visitors of clinical facilities. **It is the responsibility of the student to report any medication/s taken which would adversely affect his/her ability to perform safely in class or clinic. Written documentation will be required for verification of medications taken and will be placed in the student's file.** As a condition of admittance and retention in any professional program in the Arkansas State University College of Nursing and Health Professions all students must sign a SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMPLIANCE CONTRACT agreeing to adhere to the *Substance Abuse Policy & Procedures* when conducting any activity associated with their educational program. As the contract notes, it is inclusive of testing for substances and appropriate release of the information.

**The generic meaning of the term "drug" is broadly defined as any chemical substance which affects living systems. For the purposes of this policy, substance and/or drug abuse are used interchangeably and defined as socially unacceptable use of drugs or other chemical substances for non-therapeutic purposes. The substance alcohol (ethanol), by its properties and actions, is a drug and is used as such in this policy. Drugs prescribed by a physician licensed to

practice medicine and surgery, as long as the drug is taken in accordance with the provider's instructions and do not impair the student's ability to perform his/her duties, are exempt from this policy. However, drugs that do have the ability to impair a student's ability to perform his/her duties safely are prohibited and are subject to this policy.

Reference: Reiss, B. & Melick M. (1987). *Pharmacological Aspects of Nursing Care* (2nd Ed.). Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers, pp. 2, 627, 631-633.

PROCEDURES

1. *If a faculty member or supervisor observes a student demonstrating behavioral changes giving probably cause to believe the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing course activities*, the student will immediately be asked to submit to a body fluid testing for substances at a lab designated by the College of Nursing and Health Professions who have identified procedures for collection (see attached). The cost of the test will be borne by the student. Refusal to submit for testing warrants immediate program dismissal. At the time of the specimen is released to the testing lab, the student will sign a release statement requesting that the test results be sent to the Dean's Office, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and to the student. If the results are negative,

no further action will be taken and the student will only be allowed to make up work missed. If the results are positive (and substantiated by a second or confirmation test), the student will be dismissed from the professional program. Laboratory results will be disclosed to individuals whose duties necessitate review of the test results and confidentiality will be adhered to as stringently as possible.

2. *This policy applies only to a student exhibiting behavior creating probably cause to believe drug or alcohol abuse is present. A student may be removed from the clinical environment or educational program for any prohibited behaviors as set out in the university or program handbooks, rules and regulations, whether or not related to substance abuse.*
3. Readmission of the student to the program is contingent upon the following conditions:
    1. Formal application for readmission to the program
    2. Meeting specific program admission criteria as noted in the Undergraduate/Graduate Bulletin
    3. Clinical space availability
    4. Documentation that a prescribed treatment program has been completed by the student related to the drug/alcohol condition. The documentation is to be submitted to the Dean's Office, College of Nursing and Health Professions by the designated treatment facility.
    5. Follow-up program as suggested by the treatment facility which may include, but is not limited to, one or more relapse prevention procedures. The follow-up program will be individual, specific, and written as part of a contractual agreement with the student.
4. Arkansas State University may be required by state or national regulatory boards to submit information regarding a student's substance abuse history when he/she applies to take the examination for licensure. There is no guarantee that these boards will allow individuals with a substance abuse history to take the examination. Each case is judged individually by each board.
5. Students will be required to abide by individual institutional policies relating to substance abuse in clinical agencies to which they are assigned.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has developed the following list of behaviors that are not all inclusive but, when observed, can be used as indices to identify an individual who at the moment of observation could be under the influence of a "drug" (see the Substance Abuse Policy for definition of the term "drug" and for the mechanisms to operationalize the policy). The College of Nursing and Health Professions is guided by behavioral descriptors that are stated in the latest edition of Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

*Observation of any of these behaviors will result in dismissal from the learning environment (clinical or classroom) and mandatory drug testing.

Attention Deficit/Cognitive Impairment

- Ataxia
- Tremors, especially of the hands
- Slowed response time in a familiar skill
- Diminished from the usual in coordination/dexterity

Social Impairment

- Inappropriate verbal remarks (subjects/words/expletives)
- Inappropriate behaviors or those beyond the societal norm such as:
  - Angry outbursts/unrestrained agitation
  - Crying that cannot be explained
  - Euphoria
  - Paranoia
  - Hallucinations
- Behaviors that are markedly changed from that individual such as:
  - Introversion
  - Extroversion
  - Sullen/irritable
  - Giddy
  - Defensiveness

Somatic Manifestations/Discomforts

- Odor of alcohol on breath
- Nausea/vomiting/thirst
- Frequent trips to the bathroom/complain of urinary frequency or diarrhea
- Hiccoughs
- Reddened sclera (bloodshot eyes)
- Pupil changes/drooping eyelids
- Complain of blurred vision or inability to focus

Speech/Communication Impairment

- Slurred (thick tongue)
- Rapid/choppy communication pattern
- Incoherent speech

BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The following is a list of behavioral patterns that may surface when drugs have been abused. While these patterns have many causes, thorough assessment and detailed documentation is needed over a period of time to determine if there is any relationship to drug abuse. Patterns of behavior to observe and validate are:

- Repeated tardiness
- Frequent absenteeism

- Numerous and chronic somatic complaints (colds/GI problems/lack of sleep/weight loss/sluggishness/low energy)
- Untidy personal appearance or deterioration in quality of grooming
- Lack of attention to hygiene (hair, nails, skin, oral)
- Multiple crises in personal life
- Avoidance/lack of eye contact
- Isolation/lack of peer support
- Repeated excuses for below standard performance
- Forgetfulness with appointments/assignments
- Slowed response time in familiar activities
- Behavior shifts/mood swings
- Lack of trust and suspicious of the motives of others
- Needle tracks on body surface
- Behaviors surrounding the administration of narcotics:
  - Frequent need to waste “unused” medications
  - Recording the administration of larger doses than ordered
  - Unauthorized possession of the narcotic key
  - Unsupervised entry into narcotic cabinet
  - Volunteering to be in situations to gain greater access to narcotics
  - Taking frequent breaks/numerous occasions when whereabouts unknown

CRITERIA FOR URINE DRUG SCREENS

NOTICE: PROVIDE LAB WITH THIS CRITERIA ANY DRUG SCREENS SUBMITTED TO ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS SHALL HAVE MET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. Specimen collection is witnessed
2. BASIC 10-PANEL* DRUG SCREEN INCLUDING ALCOHOL, MEPEERIDINE AND DRUG OF CHOICE (SEE #7).
3. Laboratory must be CLIA[1]
4. Confirmation of positive results is done by GCMS[2]. If specimen must be sent to another laboratory for confirmation, the chain of custody is maintained.
5. Report, in addition to results, will include:
   1. Chain of custody
   2. Drug history
   3. List of drugs screened
   4. Confirmation of method used
   5. Specific gravity
   6. The laboratory will retain negative specimens for a minimum of two (2) weeks and positive specimens for a minimum of one (1) year.

*10-Panel Includes:

Amphetamines	Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids Cocaine

Opiates PCP

Barbiturates Methadone

Methaqualone Propoxyphene

7. THE DRUG SCREEN SHALL TEST FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Amphetamines Methaqualone

Barbiturates Phencyclidine

Benzodiazepines Propoxyphene

Cannabinoids Alcohol

Cocaine Meperidine

Opiates Drug of Choice

Methadone

DRUG SCREENS WHICH DO NOT TEST FOR THE ABOVE WILL BE CONSIDERED NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE ORDER.

[1]Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act: Set of Federal Regulations which clinical labs must meet for certification.

[2]Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry

Adopted from Arkansas State Board of Nursing, January 1997

Reviewed by Handbook Committee 6/2018

Any student that smokes on hospital grounds will be subject to that facility's policy or procedure actions [removal from premises or fined] and will not be allowed to return to the clinical site. This may result in removal from the course.

HEALTH CLEARANCE FOR CLINICAL PARTICIPATION

A new Provider Statement/Ability to Return to Clinical form should be submitted each time the student returns to clinical after having lost time from work or clinical from any incapacitation. This is to be completed by the medical provider of record.

GRADUATION

It is the student's responsibility to be certain that all graduation requirements are met. Graduation requirements should be checked prior to the last day to add a class in the semester before the semester of graduation. Students are advised to meet with their advisor for this purpose.

COMPLETION OPTIONS

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Students in the Nurse Educator, Nurse Administration, and DNP Post Master's options will be required to satisfactorily complete a capstone/project in lieu of a comprehensive exam.

Candidates for FNP, ACGNP, CRNA graduate degrees are required to take a comprehensive examination over course work. This examination is given during the last enrollment period of the degree program. The comprehensive exam shall be written, and students may be required to use a computer for the examination. In addition to the written exam, an oral exam may be required by the faculty. The exam will incorporate nursing science, theory, issues, role, research, and clinical physiology/pathophysiology. A student who fails a comprehensive exam is required to retake the examination in the next regularly scheduled time period. A student who incurs two failures in a comprehensive examination will no longer be eligible to receive a master's degree.

FINAL SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria must be met during the final semester.

1. The student's registration will include a Graduation Fee.
   https://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/graduation/
2. The student must submit an "Intent to Graduate" form with the Graduate School via School of Nursing.
3. The student must successfully complete a comprehensive exam or capstone project according to the requirements listed above.

GRADING SYSTEM POLICY (see Graduate Bulletin)

Grading Scale:

GRADE	Range
A	90-100%
B	80-89.99
C	75-79.99
F	<74.99

Each course within the nursing programs has a descriptive course syllabus with information concerning content and determination of course grade. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with and meet the requirements of each course.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

A completed health form, verification of a Tetanus Booster within the last ten years, proof of measles/rubella immunity as mandated by Arkansas law, and negative chest x-ray or PPD skin test, and a current influenza immunization as required for admission and entry into the clinical arena. Students entering a nursing program shall have on file prior to entry into clinical courses, a Hepatitis B virus (HBV) immunization record to include either a documented history of HBV infection, antibody status positive titer showing previous antigen response to HBV or documentation of the first (in a series of three) HBV immunization. The series must be completed within seven months (second immunization one month after first, followed by third immunization six months after second).

Every student must present the following evidence to the School of Nursing: PPD skin test for tuberculosis or negative chest x-ray for active disease. No clinical experience will be allowed until these requirements are completed and the importance of more extensive physical examinations on a yearly basis cannot be over-emphasized.

Hepatitis-B Vaccine

In keeping with the American Hospital Association Advisory Committee on Infections within Hospitals, the College of Nursing and Health Professions provides the following information to advise its students as to the risk associated with their chosen occupation.

Certain groups of healthcare workers are at risk of contracting Hepatitis-B through exposure to blood or accidental inoculation. A new inactivated hepatitis-B vaccine has been developed to prevent hepatitis-B virus (HBV) infection, a potentially fatal disease, in health care personnel. Studies on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine have shown it to be without serious side effects. For Hepatitis B Risk Categories for Health Care Personnel and FAQs about Hepatitis B see Appendix A.

HIV/HBV GUIDELINES FOR ON-CAMPUS LABORATORY AND CLINICAL SETTINGS

In accordance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, schools must provide equal treatment to persons who have contracted the HIV/HBV virus. Furthermore, schools may not discriminate against any individual based on the perception that he/she is infected.

TRANSMISSION INFORMATION

All CNHP students and faculty will employ Standard Precautions while in the clinical setting. CNHP students will receive instruction and annual evaluation regarding transmission of blood-borne pathogens and the use of Standard Precautions. The Infection Control Committee will coordinate instruction on Standard Precautions for faculty on an annual basis. It will be the responsibility of faculty members to document annual instruction through the Infection Control Committee.

POLICY

Students, faculty, and staff with HIV/HBV, or any significant blood borne pathogen, should be allowed equal access, as long as their medical condition permits, to university facilities or campus activities, including participation in clinical experiences or other academic and social activities offered by the university.

All confidential medical information is protected by statute and any unauthorized disclosure may create legal liability. The duty of the health care providers to protect this confidentiality is superseded by the necessity to protect others in very specific circumstances.

An infected student/faculty who is symptomatic may be excluded from providing direct client care, determined on a CASE-BY-CASE basis by the Infection Control Committee. In addition, should an individual sero-convert and express concern regarding clinical practice, the committee will convene to review the case.

EXPOSURE (Laboratory and Clinical Settings)

Students and faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Professions may be exposed to blood borne pathogens such as HIV and HBV. In the clinical and classroom laboratory settings, students/faculty are expected to utilize Standard Precautions, hand washing and protective clothing/gear to prevent contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Exposure incident means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious material that results from one's duties as a CNHP student or faculty member. An exposure incident involving a student/faculty member in the CNHP, while in a clinical facility or campus laboratory is treated in a similar manner to any type of accident occurring within the agency.

ON-CAMPUS LABORATORY OR CLINICAL SETTING: BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN POST EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

Should a student or faculty member be exposed to blood borne pathogen in an on- campus laboratory or clinical setting, the following post-exposure protocol is recommended:

1. The student will notify the faculty member supervising the learning experience. If the exposed individual is a faculty member, he/she will notify the chairperson of the specific program in the CNHP.
2. As soon as possible following the exposure, the college incident form will be completed by the faculty member/student.

3. The exposed individual will be referred to the Student Health Center for evaluation if the event occurs during operating hours. If the exposure occurs when the Health Center is closed, the faculty member will determine the individual's primary care options and refer the person to those resources.
4. It is suggested that the post-exposure protocol be managed by the individual's primary care provider at the individual's expense.
5. If there is a delay in reporting an exposure incident, it is recommended that the same protocol be followed.

OFF-CAMPUS LABORATORY OR CLINICAL SETTING: BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN POST EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

If a student/faculty member is exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials in the off-campus setting, this Blood Borne Pathogen protocol is to be followed.

1. The student will notify the clinical faculty. If the exposed individual is a faculty member, s/he will notify the chairperson of the specific program at the CNHP.
2. The student, clinical faculty or chairperson will notify the supervisor of the area where the exposure occurred. Thereafter, post-exposure protocols for the clinical institution will be followed.
3. The infection control staff member/epidemiologist of the clinical facility will be notified of the exposure immediately by the student or if possible by the clinical faculty member. If a faculty member has been exposed, this individual will notify the infection control staff/epidemiologist.
4. As soon as possible following a report of an exposure incident the clinical faculty and infection control staff/epidemiologist should provide the student with counseling about an immediate confidential medical evaluation and follow-up at the student's expense. In the case of a faculty member's exposure, the individual is expected to communicate directly with the clinical facility (infection control staff/epidemiologist). The medical evaluation and follow-up should include, at a minimum, the following requirements
    1. Documentation of the route(s) of exposure and the circumstances under which the exposure incident occurred.
    2. Identification and documentation of the source individual unless the clinical facility staff establishes that the identification is infeasible or prohibited by state or local law.
5. The source individual's blood shall be tested as soon as possible after consent is obtained in order to determine HBV and HIV infectivity. If consent is not obtained, the clinical facility shall establish that the source individual's consent cannot be obtained. When the source individual's consent is not required by law, the source individual's blood shall be tested and the results documented.
6. When the source individual is already known to be infected with HIV or HBV, testing for the source individual's HIV or HBV status need not be repeated.
7. Results of the source individual's testing shall be made available to the exposed individual who should also be informed of applicable laws and regulations concerning disclosure of the identity and infectious status of the source individual.
    1. The exposed student/faculty member's blood should be tested as soon as possible.

2. It is suggested that the post-exposure protocol be managed by the student/faculty member's personal healthcare provider.

CNHP Infection Control Committee 9/2014

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES (9/2014)

INTRODUCTION

The policies herein are of a general nature and deal with HIV-related infections as well as other blood borne pathogens. They apply to all students/faculty/staff in the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP). Due to differences in the various programs, individual CNHP programs may have specific rules and/or guidelines that are modifications of those in the general policy; however, the specific policies of the various programs will be consistent in their intent with the guidelines noted herein. This policy shall be reviewed annually and modified as necessary based on the current information from the CDC and other resources.

ADMISSIONS

The HIV/HBV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Hepatitis B Virus) or any significant blood borne pathogen status of an applicant should not enter into the application process. Applicants applying for healthcare programs should, however, be informed that certain diseases may necessitate either a modification of their program, or in the extreme may necessitate their dismissal from a program if they cannot perform procedures and/or tasks that are considered essential to their educational experience.

RETENTION

If it is determined that a student is sero-positive for HIV/HBV, or any other significant blood borne pathogen, or is clinically manifesting symptoms of a related disease process, that student should receive counseling about personal health care concerns and about interaction with others, especially clients. The student should be counseled by a designated faculty member in his/her respective program. The function of the designated faculty member is to counsel the student as to whether the program of education should be modified, another educational program considered, or in the extreme, whether the student should be dismissed from a program because of the inability to perform procedures and/or tasks crucial to the educational program. When considering the possibility of modifying clinical experiences or whether to dismiss, the designated faculty member will request that the Infection Control Committee convene to consider the specific student situation.

INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Infection Control Committee will be comprised of at least one representative from each of the programs in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The dean will be charged with appointing faculty to serve on this committee after consultation with chairs or directors of the various programs. Once the committee is established, a chair shall be elected by the members. In

addition, a community member who is an expert in infectious disease will be designated as a consultant to the committee.

The committee shall function to consider the specific student/faculty situations outlined in the HIV/HBV Guidelines. In addition, this committee will function to review the HIV/HBV Guidelines on an annual basis. The committee will coordinate annual instruction on Standard Precautions for the faculty. This committee will also serve the programs by making recommendations for infection control policy that may impact both the student and faculty populations. Information regarding such policy will be included in the various programs' Student Handbook and the CNHP Faculty/Staff Handbook.

When the Infection Control Committee convenes to consider specific student/faculty situations, a timely response is in order. Individuals will be provided a letter outlining the committee recommendations within a one-week period after convening. During this time period, the student/faculty person shall not engage in direct client contact. Should an individual wish to appeal the decision of the committee, the established University Grievance process should be followed (See A- State Student/Faculty Handbooks).

LATEX ALLERGY

The student must notify the faculty member supervising the learning experience immediately upon awareness of a known or suspected latex allergy. Latex allergy exposure treatment and medical prophylaxis is the student's responsibility and must be provided at the student's expense.

STANDARD UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

All College of Nursing and Health Professions students and faculty will employ Standard Precautions while in the clinical setting. College of Nursing and Health Professions students will receive instruction and annual evaluation regarding transmission of blood borne pathogens and the use of Standard Precautions. Protocols for Standard Precautions (previously referred to as Universal Precautions) can be found in the OSHA Blood borne Pathogens Standard document located in Appendix B.

STUDENT SERVICES

AUDIOVISUAL AND CLINICAL LEARNING CENTER

The AV lab is located on the third floor of the College of Nursing and Health Professions Jonesboro campus. The AV lab is open Monday through Friday with hours posted at the beginning of each semester.

The Clinical Learning Center is located in Room 325 in the Reynolds Health Science Building and is equipped with mannequins, equipment and supplies which may be used to practice procedures and skills. The CLC is available for schedule Monday through Friday.

COMPUTER USAGE

All Arkansas State University computing facilities, equipment, software and reference manuals are for class use only. No use of a commercial nature, or use for personal gain or profit will be allowed. Copying of computer software or related reference manuals for commercial or personal use is a violation of federal copyright laws and will not be allowed. Playing games on the computers will not be allowed.

Using computers and printers to print banners, posters, term papers, resumes, greeting cards, etc. will not be allowed unless it is for an A-State computer or word processing class assignment. A-State is a Microsoft campus. Microsoft software products are ONLY available at

http://www.astate.edu/a/its/software-downloads/

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER (NYIT Medical Clinic)

The Student Health Center has an array of medical services from treating minor illnesses and injuries to providing physical exams, immunizations, female exams (including pap smears), health education, and pre/post-test HIV Counseling (includes blood draw). Call for an appointment, 870-972-2054 or see the website:

https://www.astate.edu/a/student-health-center/

Clinic Hours of business are:

Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center provides personal, career and academic counseling to A-State students. While the Center staff works with students who may be experiencing a crisis, the goal is to help students deal with their concerns before they develop into more serious problems. Counseling Center services are performed by psychologist and counselors, counseling interns and counseling practicum students. All full-time staff members are licensed mental health practitioners and services are always performed by those whose skills and training are appropriate to the task. Call 870-972-2318 or see website: https://www.astate.edu/a/counseling-services/

LIBRARY SERVICES

All A-State students have access to the Dean B. Ellis Library- ASTATE/Jonesboro. Students must have a current student ID in order to utilize many of the services provided by the library. The library handbook, available at the library, offers a description of the resources and hours of operation. The website for the library (https://www.astate.edu/library) has information online. The library can be contacted at (870) 972-3077. Online services are available at the Dean B. Ellis Library (Jonesboro). Several databases are available via remote access (your home computer, for example) if you are enrolled in a web course or a Jonesboro section of a course. Selected full-text articles may be available. Databases that have some full-text articles include *Academic Search Premier, UPtoDATE, CINAHL, Ovid, Lexis-Nexis* (medical section), *Electric Library*, and the *Health and Wellness Reference Center* (formerly Health Trac). *Medline Plus* also has some full text articles.

[If *Medline Plus* materials are not full text, you may order (without cost) from Interlibrary Loan Services.] Materials not found online are available at A-State-J Library, and some branch campus libraries as well as a number of other area libraries. Students may use inter-library loan (usually without cost; you can limit what you are willing to spend) for materials not in the AState Library collection.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Students in all graduate programs at A-State have an organization of their own. This organization, which works with the Graduate School and Graduate Dean is The Graduate Student Advisory Council. A student from one of the graduate programs represents the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

SIGMA THETA TAU

Sigma Theta Tau is the international honor society of nursing with the A-State chapter, Eta Theta. The purpose of this society is: 1) to recognize superior achievement and scholarship; 2) to recognize the development of leadership qualities; 3) to foster high professional standards; 4) to encourage (creative work; and 5) to strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

Membership Criteria:

Graduate students must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 and have completed at least ¼ of the program of study.

ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER(AGACNP)

AGACNP OPTION MISSION

The mission of the graduate nursing program is to prepare nurses who can provide and support advanced nursing practice, integrate nursing and related theories, utilize and participate in research, engage in collaborative relationships, provide leadership in the nursing arena, and demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic, social, professional, educational, legal and ethical realities which have an impact on nursing and health care.

AGACNP OPTION PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Acute Care Option is:

1. To prepare nurses who possess theoretical knowledge, leadership, collaborative, and advanced practice skills necessary to enhance the nursing profession and improve health care.
2. To prepare advanced clinicians whose research knowledge enables them to evaluate and utilize research findings in practice and participate in scientific investigation.
3. To provide a basis for professional growth and a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Graduate nursing education builds on a foundation of undergraduate nursing education and provides an opportunity for professional nurses to develop a specialty practice that is congruent with an expanding theoretical and empirical knowledge base. The graduate program in nursing is designed to assist professional nurses to prepare for advanced clinical and functional roles that demand increased accountability, expertise, and leadership. The master's program facilitates the use of the research process through the course of study and prepares the graduate to be a critical thinker and a self-directed professional who collaborates with consumers and other health care providers.

AGACNP OPTION PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program objectives emphasize study in the areas of theory, research, role, practice, and health policy. Upon completion of study for the Master of Science in nursing, the student is expected to be able to:

MSN End-of-Program SLOs

1. Interpret theories and concepts from nursing, the arts, humanities, sciences, and evidence-based practice to guide clinical and professional judgment in nursing practice.
2. Support person-centered care while respecting diversity and the unique determinants of individuals and populations.
3. Incorporate leadership and collaborative roles in the planning, provision, and management of services to influence policy for individuals, families, and populations.
4. Develop authentic leadership within complex health systems for the improvement of safe, cost-effective, quality health care for diverse populations.
5. Model professionalism in nursing practice through accountability to ethical and legal standards.
6. Evaluate critical inquiry to advance the discipline and profession of nursing.
7. Incorporate information systems and technology to evaluate programs of care, outcomes of care, and care systems.

ROLE SPECIFIC AGACNP CORE COMPETENCIES:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/files/np_competencies_2.pdf

ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER (AGACNP)

Program prepares nurses with the complex practice skills and theoretical knowledge necessary for roles in advanced nursing and leadership in the contemporary health care system. Graduate study in nursing is the basis for professional growth in advanced practice roles and the foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**
Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 6627V AGACNP Seminar 1	1.5
NURS 6628V AGACNP Seminar 2	1.5
NURS 6623V AGACNP Seminar 3	1.5
NURS 6624V AGACNP Seminar 4	1.5
NURS 6625V AGACNP Seminar 5	1.5
NURS 6626V AGACNP Seminar 6	1.5
NURS 66672 AGACNP Practicum 1	2
NURS 66682 AGACNP Practicum 2	2

NURS 66632 AGACNP Practicum 3	2
NURS 66642 AGACNP Practicum 4	2
NURS 66652 AGACNP Practicum 5	2
NURS 6666V AGACNP Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours:	**41.5**

ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER (AGACNP): BEGINNING SPRING 2026

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**
Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 62113 AGACNP Seminar I	3
NURS 62114 AGACNP Practicum I	4
NURS 63363 AGACNP Seminar II	3
NURS 63364 AGACNP Practicum II	4
NURS 64483 AGACNP Seminar III	3
NURS 64484 AGACNP Practicum III	4.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours:	**41.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AGACNP OPTION

Graduate Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is available to RNs who have recent clinical experience and have completed an MSN with advanced preparation in another specialty area from an accredited institution. Graduates of an MSN program with a AGACNP option that did not include the required certification eligibility requirements from the

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and/or the American Associated of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) (Advanced Physiology/ Pathophysiology; Advanced Health Assessment, including diagnostics and disease management; Advanced Pharmacology; and/or minimum of

500 faculty supervised clinical hours) are also eligible to apply. A request for a curriculum “Gap Analysis” to determine an individual Plan of Study will be requested from the Program Coordinator prior to admission.

Requirements:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 6627V AGACNP Seminar 1	1.5
NURS 6628V AGACNP Seminar 2	1.5
NURS 6623V AGACNP Seminar 3	1.5
NURS 6624V AGACNP Seminar 4	1.5
NURS 6625V AGACNP Seminar 5	1.5
NURS 6626V AGACNP Seminar 6	1.5
NURS 66672 AGACNP Practicum 1	2
NURS 66682 AGACNP Practicum 2	2
NURS 66632 AGACNP Practicum 3	2
NURS 66642 AGACNP Practicum 4	2
NURS 66652 AGACNP Practicum 5	2

NURS 6666V AGACNP Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours	**21.5-30.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AGACNP OPTION: BEGINNING SPRING 2026

Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 62113 AGACNP Seminar I	3
NURS 62114 AGACNP Practicum I	4
NURS 63363 AGACNP Seminar II	3
NURS 63364 AGACNP Practicum II	4
NURS 64483 AGACNP Seminar III	3
NURS 64484 AGACNP Practicum III	4.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours	**21.5-30.5**

ADDITIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY FOR THE ACUTE CARE OPTION

Students in the AGACNP option must have a current liability policy as a “AGACNP Student” before enrolling in AGACNP clinical courses.

ADMISSION FOR AGACNP OPTION

Students are offered admission to their selected MSN Program Option only. Should the student desire to change specialty focus, the student should notify their advisor and complete a change of option/major form for Graduate Admissions. A revised goal statement and admission to the new specialty must be accepted by the MSN Program Admissions, Progressions and Credits Committee. Approval of the MSN faculty of the School of Nursing is required for admission.

All applicants for any AGACNP must first be accepted for Graduate School.

All applicants for the AGACNP program apply to: Arkansas State University Online Services (870) 972-2920; P. O. Box 2520, State University, AR 72467. astateonline@astate.edu

AGACNP OPTION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites for all AGACNP:

1. Computer Competency. Students enrolled in the MSN and DNP programs are required to possess specific computer competencies. These include the use of electronic mail, use of the World Wide Web, uploading and downloading of files, and access to server capability to support academic programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO MEET MSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Post Masters Certificates may be excluded. (Effective JAN 1, 2014)

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION FOR THE AGACNP OPTION

To establish unconditional admission at the master's degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average.

**ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION'S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MSN PROGRAM OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.*

***ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE and are based on posted ADMISSION CRITERIA.*

ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE AGACNP OPTION

STUDENTS (with the exception of DNP NA students) WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS STUDY ARE PLACED ON INACTIVE STATUS.

1. Students not enrolled in Acute Care Program courses for three sequential semesters, not including summer session, will be moved to inactive status. The Graduate Admissions office will be notified by the School of Nursing Office about the status of the student.
2. Students with an inactive status designation in the Acute Care Program must petition the MSN, Progressions, and Credits Committee for reinstatement (The petition should be directed to the MSN Program Director. The Program Director will consult with the program faculty represented by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee, student's advisor and the Graduate Admissions Office about reinstatement of the student. A revised program of study will be filed. [Students should note that Graduate School policy states, "The time limit allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years . . ." Please refer to current edition of the A- STATE *Graduate Bulletin* for additional information.] (Policy approved April 12, 1999 by MSN Faculty, Admission, Progressions, and Credits Committee.)

STATUS OF NURSE LICENSURE

AGACNP Students must hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse. The unencumbered RN and/or APRN license must be active in the state where clinical practice is scheduled, according to the state approval map at the School of Nursing website. The individual may reapply for admission upon successful completion of the licensing examination. Evidence will be requested throughout the program, and the student is responsible for maintaining the unencumbered license throughout the program. If the license status should change at any time, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty advisor and dismissal from the program may be necessary.

RETENTION/PROGRESSION

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0, according to Graduate school requirements. All MSN students are required to earn a minimum grade of “B” in all courses. Progression in specialty courses requires a grade of “B” or better in all completed specialty courses to date. All policies as represented in the A-State Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School Policies remain in effect, including requisites and co-requisites identified for each course.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed from the program if:

1. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” twice in the same graduate-level nursing course
2. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” in any graduate-level nursing courses in two separate parts of the term (POT) in the same program.
3. Please see the Graduate Information Guide for general dismissal policies and program option-specific related policies.

READMISSION FOR THE MSN PROGRAM

If students in other program options are not allowed to continue in a program because of the above stipulations, readmission will be considered only after the student submits a formal application for readmission to the appropriate program.

1. Students are not eligible for readmission if:

- The cumulative grade point average is lower than 3.0.
- The student has received a final grade lower than "B" twice in the same course, or has received a grade lower than "B" in professional courses in two separate semesters in the same program. [In Nursing, withdrawal from a nursing course to avoid a failing grade is considered the same as receiving a grade lower than "B."

1. Procedures for application for readmission:

- All applications for readmission must include a current and complete official transcript.
- Reapplication is not a guarantee of readmission. Readmission is a competitive process dependent on the applicant pool at the time and space availability.

1. Adherence to the AGACNP Option application deadline is mandatory to be considered for readmission. See A-State AGACNP websites for the deadline for submitting applications for admission.

CLINICAL ROTATION POLICIES FOR THE AGACNP OPTION

Prior to beginning any clinical activities, students must have on file in the clinical tracking system the following documentation:

1. Active license to practice as a registered nurse in the state where clinical practice is scheduled
2. Professional liability insurance as an “AGACNP Student” (minimum $1,000,000/$3,000,000)
3. Current TB skin test, TSPOT, or evidence of negative finding from chest x-ray
4. CPR certification (professional level)
5. Verified Credentials (background check)
6. Evidence of Hepatitis B immunization, or current Hepatitis B titer, or signed declination statement
7. MMR
8. Tetanus within the last 10 years.
9. Influenza vaccine
10. Health clearance form

Students will be asked to recommend a short-list of potential preceptors to the clinical coordinator upon acceptance to the AGACNP Option. The Clinical Coordinator will assure each clinical site meets the university’s criteria as a clinical affiliate facility and will arrange any necessary clinical contracts. Students may not begin their clinical rotation until they receive written acceptance of the clinical site and confirmation of an Arkansas State University contract with the precepting facility from the assigned Clinical Instructor in writing. All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed. A name-tag will be worn identifying the student as an A-State AGACNP student. Name tags can be ordered.

Clinical preceptor packets will be distributed during the first two weeks of the semester. A link is provided to all clinical preceptors for access to the online Preceptor Manual by the assigned clinical faculty.

A clinical log of all clinical practicum hours will be maintained through an electronic format throughout the clinical rotations. These logs will be reviewed throughout the course of the semester during clinical site visits, at semester end, upon completion of program, or at faculty

member’s request. Every effort should be made to obtain a preceptor initial or signature to verify clinical time at the completion of each day's clinical experience.

REVIEW COURSE & STANDARDIZED EXAMS

AGACNP students will be required to attend an ANCC or similar approved Review Course as part of their program of study at the student's expense during the last year of course work. Standardized predictor exams will be administered throughout the program of study at the student's expense. A national normed exam will be given at or near the last semester of the program at the student's expense. Failure of the above nationally normed exam requires formalized remediation and/or independent study at the student's own expense and must be completed prior to graduation. This formalized remediation must be completed as assigned. Failure to complete remediation may result in student failure to progress in the program. The faculty will assist with formal remediation.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (FNP)

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION MISSION

The mission of the graduate nursing program is to prepare nurses who can provide and support advanced nursing practice, integrate nursing and related theories, utilize and participate in research, engage in collaborative relationships, provide leadership in the nursing arena, and demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic, social, professional, educational, legal and ethical realities which have an impact on nursing and health care.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purposes of the FNP Option:

1. To prepare nurses who possess theoretical knowledge, leadership, collaborative, and advanced practice skills necessary to enhance the nursing profession and improve health care.
2. To prepare advanced clinicians whose research knowledge enables them to evaluate and utilize research findings in practice and participate in scientific investigation.
3. To provide a basis for professional growth and a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Graduate nursing education builds on a foundation of undergraduate nursing education and provides an opportunity for professional nurses to develop a specialty practice that is congruent with an expanding theoretical and empirical knowledge base. The graduate program in nursing is designed to assist professional nurses to prepare for advanced clinical and functional roles that demand increased accountability, expertise, and leadership. The master's program facilitates the use of the research process through the course of study and prepares the graduate to be a critical thinker and a self-directed professional who collaborates with consumers and other health care providers.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program objectives emphasize study in the areas of theory, research, role, practice, and health policy. Upon completion of study for the Master of Science in nursing, the student is expected to be able to:

MSN End of Program SLOs

1. Interpret theories and concepts from nursing, the arts, humanities, sciences, and evidence-based practice to guide clinical and professional judgment in nursing practice.
2. Support person-centered care while respecting diversity and the unique determinants of individuals and populations.
3. Incorporate leadership and collaborative roles in the planning, provision, and management of services to influence policy for individuals, families, and populations.
4. Develop authentic leadership within complex health systems for the improvement of safe, cost-effective, quality health care for diverse populations.
5. Model professionalism in nursing practice through accountability to ethical and legal standards
6. Evaluate critical inquiry to advance the discipline and profession of nursing.

- Incorporate information systems and technology to evaluate programs of care, outcomes of care, and care systems.

ROLES SPECIFIC NURSE PRACTITIONER COMPETENCIES

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/np_competencies_%26_ntf_standards/nonpf_np_role_core_competenc.pdf

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION (FNP)

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Concentration prepares nurses with the complex practice skills and theoretical knowledge necessary for roles in advanced nursing and leadership in the contemporary health care system. Graduate study in nursing is the basis for professional growth in advanced practice roles and the foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**

Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 6610V FNP Women's Health	1.5
NURS 6617V FNP Pediatrics	1.5
NURS 6613V FNP Systems I	1.5
NURS 6614V FNP Systems II	1.5
NURS 6615V FNP Systems III	1.5
NURS 6616V FNP Seminar	1.5
NURS 66232 FNP Clinical Practicum 1	2
NURS 66242 FNP Clinical Practicum 2	2
NURS 66252 FNP Clinical Practicum 3	2
NURS 66262 FNP Clinical Practicum 4	2
NURS 66272 FNP Clinical Practicum 5	2
NURS 6656V FNP Clinical Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours:	**41.5**

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION (FNP): BEGINNING FALL 2025

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**
Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**

NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 65113 FNP Clinical Management I	3
NURS 65114 FNP Clinical Management I Practicum	4
NURS 66113 FNP Clinical Management II	3
NURS 66114 FNP Clinical Management II Practicum	4
NURS 67553 FNP Synthesis Seminar	3
NURS 6881V FNP Clinical Management III Practicum	4.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours:	**41.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate is available to RNs who have recent clinical experience and have completed a MSN with advanced preparation in another specialty area from an accredited institution. Graduates of a MSN program with a FNP option that did not include the required certification eligibility requirements from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and/or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology; Advanced Health Assessment, including diagnostics and disease management; Advanced Pharmacology; and/or minimum of 500 faculty super- vised clinical hours) are also eligible to apply. A request for a curriculum “Gap Analysis” to determine an individual Plan of Study will be requested from the Program Coordinator prior to admission.

Requirements:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 6610V FNP Women’s Health	1.5

NURS 6617V FNP Pediatrics	1.5
NURS 6613V FNP Systems I	1.5
NURS 6614V FNP Systems II	1.5
NURS 6615V FNP Systems III	1.5
NURS 6616V FNP Seminar	1.5
NURS 66232 FNP Clinical Practicum 1	2
NURS 66242 FNP Clinical Practicum 2	2
NURS 66252 FNP Clinical Practicum 3	2
NURS 66262 FNP Clinical Practicum 4	2
NURS 66272 FNP Clinical Practicum 5	2
NURS 6656V FNP Clinical Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours	**21.5-30.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION: BEGINNING SUMMER 2026

Required Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 65113 FNP Clinical Management I	3
NURS 65114 FNP Clinical Management I Practicum	4
NURS 66113 FNP Clinical Management II	3
NURS 66114 FNP Clinical Management II Practicum	4
NURS 67553 FNP Synthesis Seminar	3
NURS 6881V FNP Clinical Management III Practicum	4.4
Sub-total	**21.5**
Total Required Hours:	**21-30**

ADDITIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

Students in the FNP option must have a current liability policy as a “FNP Student” before enrolling in FNP clinical courses.

Students are offered admission to their selected MSN Program Option only. Should the student desire to change specialty focus, the student should notify his/her advisor and complete a change of option/major form for Graduate Admissions. A revised goal statement and admission to the new specialty must be accepted by the MSN Program Admissions, Progressions and Credits Committee. Approval of the MSN faculty of the School of Nursing is required for admission.

FNP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITES FOR THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

1. Computer Competency. Students enrolled in the MSN and DNP programs are required to possess specific computer competencies. These include the use of electronic mail, use of the World Wide Web, uploading and downloading of files, and access to server capability to support academic programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO MEET MSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Post Masters Certificates may be excluded. (Effective JAN 1, 2014)

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION FOR THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

To establish unconditional admission at the master's degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION’S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MSN PROGRAM OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.

****ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE and are based on posted ADMISSION CRITERIA.***

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

APPLYING TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

All applicants for the FNP program apply to:

Arkansas State University Online Services

P.O. Box 2520

State University, AR 72467

(870)972- 2920; astateonline@astate.edu

Admission requirements may be found on the School of Nursing website:

https://www.astate.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-professions/school-of-nursing.html

APPLYING TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

INACTIVE STATUS FOR FNP

STUDENTS (with the exception of DNP NA students) WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS STUDY ARE PLACED ON INACTIVE STATUS.

1. Students not enrolled in FNP Program courses for three sequential semesters, not including summer session, will be moved to inactive status The Graduate Admissions office will be notified by the School of Nursing Office about the status of the student.
2. Students with an inactive status designation in the FNP Program must petition the MSN, Progressions, and Credits Committee for reinstatement. The petition should be directed to the MSN Program Director. The Program Director will consult with the program faculty represented by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee, student's advisor and the Graduate Admissions Office about reinstatement of the student. A revised program of study will be filed. [Students should note that Graduate School policy states, "The time limit allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years . . ." Please refer to the current edition of the A-STATE *Graduate Bulletin* for additional information.] (Policy approved April 12, 1999 by MSN Faculty, Admission, Progressions, and Credits Committee.)

STATUS OF NURSE LICENSURE

FNP Students must hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse. The unencumbered RN and/or APRN license must be active in the state where clinical practice is scheduled. Evidence will be requested throughout the program and the student is responsible for maintaining the unencumbered license throughout the program. If the license status should change at any time, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty advisor and dismissal from the program may be necessary.

RETENTION TO THE FNP PROGRAM

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0, according to Graduate school requirements. All MSN students are required to earn a minimum grade of "B" in all courses. Progression in specialty

courses requires a grade of "B" or better in all completed specialty courses to date. All policies as represented in the A-State Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School Policies remain in effect, including requisites and co-requisites identified for each course.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed from the program if:

1. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” twice in the same graduate-level nursing course
2. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” in any graduate-level nursing courses in two separate parts of the term (POT) in the same program.
3. Please see the Graduate Information Guide for general dismissal policies and program option-specific related policies.

READMISSION TO THE MSN PROGRAM

If students in other program options are not allowed to continue in a program because of the above stipulations, readmission will be considered only after the student submits a formal application for readmission to the appropriate program.

1. Students are not eligible for readmission if:

- The cumulative grade point average is lower than 3.0.
- The student has received a final grade lower than "B" twice in the same course, or has received a grade lower than "B" in professional courses in two separate semesters in the same program. [In Nursing, withdrawal from a nursing course to avoid a failing grade is considered the same as receiving a grade lower than "B."]
- Procedures for application for readmission:

- All applications for readmission must include a current and complete official transcript.
- Reapplication is not a guarantee of readmission. Readmission is a competitive process dependent on the applicant pool at the time and space availability.

1. Adherence to the FNP Option application deadline are mandatory to be considered for readmission. See A-State FNP websites for the deadline for submitting applications for admission.

FNP CLINICAL ROTATION: POLICIES/PROCEDURES FOR THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

Prior to beginning any clinical activities, students must have on file in the clinical tracking system the following documentation:

1. Active license to practice as a registered nurse in the state where clinical practice is scheduled
2. Professional liability insurance as an “FNP Student” (minimum $1,000,000/$3,000,000)
3. Current TB skin test, TSPOT, or evidence of negative finding from chest x-ray
4. CPR certification (professional level)
5. Verified Credentials (background check)
6. Evidence of Hepatitis B immunization, current Hepatitis B Titer or signed declination statement
7. MMR

8. Tetanus
9. Influenza vaccine
10. Health clearance form

Students will be asked to recommend a short-list of potential preceptors to the clinical coordinator upon acceptance to the FNP Program. The Clinical Coordinator will assure each clinical site meets the university's criteria as a clinical affiliate facility and will arrange any necessary clinical contracts. Students may not begin their clinical rotation until they receive written acceptance of the clinical site and confirmation of an Arkansas State University contract with the precepting facility from the assigned Clinical Instructor in writing.

All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed. A name-tag will be worn identifying the student as an A-State FNP student. Name tags can be ordered.

Clinical preceptor packets will be distributed during the first two weeks of the semester. A link is provided to all clinical preceptors for access to the online Preceptor Manual by the assigned clinical faculty.

A clinical log of all clinical practicum hours will be maintained through an electronic format throughout the clinical rotations. These logs will be reviewed throughout the course of the semester during clinical site visits, at semester end, upon completion of program, or at faculty member's request. Every effort should be made to obtain a preceptor initial or signature to verify clinical time at the completion of each day's clinical experience.

CURRENT CONTRACT WITH CLINICAL FACILITY

When sites for student clinical experiences are identified, unless a special form is required, the chair or program director submits a request for preparation/ execution of the *Clinical Affiliation Agreement* to the dean's office. If special forms are required by the agency, the chair or program director should obtain and prepare these and submit them to the dean for review. Signed copies are maintained by the Dean and the VCRAA. ****Before sending students to a clinical site, chairs/program directors/clinical coordinators should be sure the College has a current and valid clinical agreement and note what special stipulations are required by the facility*.

REVIEW COURSE & STANDARDIZED EXAMS

FNP students will be required to attend an ANCC or similar approved Review Course as part of their program of study at the student's expense during the last year of course work. Standardized predictor exams will be administered throughout the program of study at the student's expense. A national normed exam will be given at or near the last semester of the program at the student's expense. Failure of the above nationally normed exam requires formalized remediation and/or independent study at the student's own expense and must be completed prior to graduation. This formalized remediation must be completed as assigned. Failure to complete remediation may result in student failure to progress in the program. The faculty will assist with formal remediation.

NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION MISSION

The mission of the graduate nursing program is to prepare nurses who can provide and support advanced nursing practice, integrate nursing and related theories, utilize and participate in research, engage in collaborative relationships, provide leadership in the nursing arena, and demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic, social, professional, educational, legal and ethical realities which have an impact on nursing and health care.

NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION PROGRAM PURPOSE

1. To prepare nurses who possess theoretical knowledge, leadership, collaborative, and advanced practice skills necessary to enhance the nursing profession and improve health care.
2. To prepare advanced clinicians whose research knowledge enables them to evaluate and utilize research findings in practice and participate in scientific investigation.
3. To provide a basis for professional growth and a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Graduate nursing education builds on a foundation of undergraduate nursing education and provides an opportunity for professional nurses to develop a specialty practice that is congruent with an expanding theoretical and empirical knowledge base. The graduate program in nursing is designed to assist professional nurses to prepare for advanced clinical and functional roles that demand increased accountability, expertise, and leadership. The master’s program facilitates the use of the research process through the course of study and prepares the graduate to be a critical thinker and a self-directed professional who collaborates with consumers and other health care providers.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

The program objectives emphasize study in the areas of theory, research, role, practice, and health policy. Upon completion of study for the Master of Science in nursing, the student is expected to be able to:

Proposed MSN End-of-Program SLOs

1. Interpret theories and concepts from nursing, the arts, humanities, sciences, and evidence-based practice to guide clinical and professional judgment in nursing practice.
2. Support person-centered care while respecting diversity and the unique determinants of individuals and populations.
3. Incorporate leadership and collaborative roles in the planning, provision, and management of services to influence policy for individuals, families, and populations.
4. Develop authentic leadership within complex health systems for the improvement of safe, cost-effective, quality health care for diverse populations.

5. Model professionalism in nursing practice through accountability to ethical and legal standards
6. Evaluate critical inquiry to advance the discipline and profession of nursing.
7. Incorporate information systems and technology to evaluate programs of care, outcomes of care, and care systems.

ROLE SPECIFIC AONE COMPETENCIES

1. Communication and Relationship Management
2. Knowledge of Health Care Environment
3. Leadership
4. Professionalism
5. Business Skills and Principles

NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

The Nursing Administration option is available to MSN students. Students earning a degree and completing the Nurse Administrator option must be enrolled in a MSN option.

Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66373 Healthcare Law and Quality Improvement	3
NURS 55133 Leadership in Health Professions	3
NURS 66353 Budgeting and Financial Management	3
NURS 66762 Applied Clinical Research and Role Seminar	2
NURS 66873 Practicum in Nursing Administration	3
Total Required Hours	**34**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NURSE ADMINISTRATION

Graduate Certificate in Nurse Administration students seeking a certificate as a Nurse Administrator may complete the require 15-18 credit hours with concurrent enrollment within a Master of Science in Nursing program option or may complete after a Master of Science in Nursing degree is obtained. The Nurse Administrator Certificate will prepare nurses for Certification by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and/or American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE).

Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 55133 Leadership in Health Professions	3
NURS 66373 Healthcare Law and Quality Improvement	3
NURS 66353 Budgeting and Financial Management	3
NURS 66762 Applied Clinical Research and Role Seminar	2
NURS 66873 Practicum in Nursing Administration	3
Total Required Hours	**14**

Students are offered admission to their selected MSN Program Option only. Should the student desire to change specialty focus, the student should notify his/her advisor and complete a change of option/major form.

MSN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITES FOR NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

1. Computer Competency. Students enrolled in the MSN Nurse Administration Option is required to possess specific computer competencies. These include the use of electronic mail, use of the World Wide Web, uploading and downloading of files, and access to server capability to support academic programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO MEET MSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Post Masters Certificates may be excluded. (Effective JAN 1, 2014)

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

To establish unconditional admission at the master's degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average.

****ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION'S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS***

FOR MSN PROGRAM OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.

ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE and are based on posted ADMISSION CRITERIA.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

APPLYING TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

All applicants for the Nurse Administration program apply to:

Arkansas State University Online Services

P.O. Box 2520

State University, AR 72476

(870) 972-2920; astateonline@astate.edu.

Admission requirements may be found on the School of Nursing website

https://www.astate.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-professions/school-of-nursing.html

INACTIVE STATUS FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

STUDENTS (with the exception of MSN NA students) WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS STUDY ARE PLACED ON INACTIVE STATUS.

1. Students not enrolled in FNP Program courses for three sequential semesters, not including summer session, will be moved to inactive status The Graduate Admissions office will be notified by the School of Nursing Office about the status of the student.
2. Students with an inactive status designation in the FNP Program must petition the MSN, Progressions, and Credits Committee for reinstatement. The petition should be directed to the MSN Program Director. The Program Director will consult with the program faculty represented by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee, student's advisor and the Graduate Admissions Office about reinstatement of the student. A revised program of study will be filed. [Students should note that Graduate School policy states, "The time limit allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years . . ." Please refer to the current edition of the A-STATE *Graduate Bulletin* for additional information.] (Policy approved April 12, 1999 by MSN Faculty, Admission, Progressions, and Credits Committee.)

STATUS OF NURSE LICENSURE

MSN Students must hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse. The unencumbered RN and/or APRN license must be active in the state where clinical practice is scheduled. Individuals admitted pending NCLEX-RN examination results are required to withdraw

from the program at the end of the first semester if the examination is not passed. The individual may reapply for admission upon successful completion of the licensing examination. Evidence will be requested throughout the program and the student is responsible for maintaining the unencumbered license throughout the program. If the license status should change at any time, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty advisor and dismissal from the program may be necessary.

RETENTION/PROGRESSION TO THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0, according to Graduate school requirements. All MSN students are required to earn a minimum grade of “B” in all courses. Progression in specialty courses requires a grade of “B” or better in all completed specialty courses to date. All policies as represented in the A-State Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School Policies remain in effect, including requisites and co-requisites identified for each course.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed from the program if:

1. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” twice in the same graduate-level nursing course
2. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” in any graduate-level nursing courses in two separate parts of the term (POT) in the same program.
3. Please see the Graduate Information Guide for general dismissal policies and program option-specific related policies.

READMISSION FOR THE MSN PROGRAM

If students in other program options are not allowed to continue in a program because of the above stipulations, readmission will be considered only after the student submits a formal application for readmission to the appropriate program.

1. Students are not eligible for readmission if:

- The cumulative grade point average is lower than 3.0.
- The student has received a final grade lower than "B" twice in the same course, or has received a grade lower than "B" in professional courses in two separate semesters in the same program.

1. Procedures for application for readmission:

- All applications for readmission must include a current and complete official transcript.
- Reapplication is not a guarantee of readmission. Readmission is a competitive process dependent on the applicant pool at the time and space availability.

CLINICAL ROTATION: POLICIES/PROCEDURES FOR THE NURSE ADMINISTRATION OPTION

Students will be asked to recommend a short-list of potential preceptors to the clinical coordinator upon acceptance to the program. The Faculty will assure each clinical site meets the university's criteria as a clinical affiliate facility and will arrange any necessary clinical contracts. Students may not begin their clinical rotation until they receive written acceptance of the clinical site and confirmation of an Arkansas State University contract with the precepting facility from the assigned Clinical Coordinator in writing.

All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed. A name-tag will be worn identifying the student as student. name tags can be ordered.

Clinical preceptor packets will be distributed during the first two weeks of the semester. A link is provided to all clinical preceptors for access to the online Preceptor Manual by the assigned clinical faculty.

A clinical log of all clinical practicum hours will be maintained through an electronic format throughout the clinical rotations. These logs will be reviewed throughout the course of the semester during clinical site visits, at semester end, upon completion of program, or at faculty member's request.

CURRENT CONTRACT WITH CLINICAL FACILITY

When sites for student clinical experiences are identified, unless a special form is required, the chair or program director submits a request for preparation/ execution of the *Clinical Affiliation Agreement* to the dean's office. If special forms are required by the agency, the chair or program director should obtain and prepare these and submit them to the dean for review. Signed copies are maintained by the Dean and the VCRAA.

****Before sending students to a clinical site, chairs/program directors/clinical coordinators should be sure the College has a current and valid clinical agreement and note what special stipulations are required by the facility.*

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION MISSION

The mission of the graduate nursing program is to prepare nurses who can provide and support advanced nursing practice, integrate nursing and related theories, utilize and participate in research, engage in collaborative relationships, provide leadership in the nursing arena, and demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic, social, professional, educational, legal and ethical realities which have an impact on nursing and health care.

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION PROGRAM PURPOSE

1. To prepare students for nursing faculty, clinical instructor, and staff development positions.
2. To provide students with the foundation to teach nursing and healthcare professionals.
3. To provide a basis for professional growth and a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Graduate nursing education builds on a foundation of undergraduate nursing education and provides an opportunity for professional nurses to develop a specialty practice that is congruent with an expanding theoretical and empirical knowledge base. The graduate program in nursing is designed to assist professional nurses to prepare for advanced clinical and functional roles that demand increased accountability, expertise, and leadership. The master's program facilitates the use of the research process through the course of study and prepares the graduate to be a critical thinker and a self-directed professional who collaborates with consumers and other health care providers.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

The program objectives emphasize study in the areas of theory, research, role, practice, and health policy. Upon completion of study for the Master of Science in nursing, the student is expected to be able to:

Role Specific Nurse Educator End-of-Program Outcomes (MSN Program Outcomes) Based on the NLN Core Competencies of Academic Nurse Educators:

In addition to the MSN End-of-Program Outcomes, the graduate of the Nurse Educator Option (or post-master's certificate program), is prepared to:

Proposed MSN End-of-Program SLOs

1. Interpret theories and concepts from nursing, the arts, humanities, sciences, and evidence-based practice to guide clinical and professional judgment in nursing practice.
2. Support person-centered care while respecting diversity and the unique determinants of individuals and populations.
3. Incorporate leadership and collaborative roles in the planning, provision, and management of services to influence policy for individuals, families, and populations.
4. Develop authentic leadership within complex health systems for the improvement of safe, cost-effective, quality health care for diverse populations.
5. Model professionalism in nursing practice through accountability to ethical and legal standards
6. Evaluate critical inquiry to advance the discipline and profession of nursing.
7. Incorporate information systems and technology to evaluate programs of care, outcomes of care, and care systems.

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

Minimum hours required for this option: 11 additional credit hours Courses in the Nurse Educator option are:

- NURS 6623: Curriculum Development in Health Professions
- NURS 6853: Teaching in Advanced Nursing Roles
- NURS 6713: Practicum in Nursing Education
- NURS 6043: Measurement and Evaluation in Health Sciences

Nurse Educator may also be taken as an informal graduate certificate without earning the MSN degree or a post graduate certificate.

Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66053 Measurement and Evaluation in Health Sciences	3
NURS 66603 Curriculum Development in Health Professions	3
NURS 66853 Teaching in Advanced Nursing Roles	3
NURS 66703 Practicum in Nursing Education	3
Total Required Hours	**32**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NURSE EDUCATOR

Students seeking a certificate as a Nurse Educator may complete the required 12 credit hours without being admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing program or may complete as a Post Graduate Certificate with completion of the MSN degree in another option. This Nurse Educator

Certificate will prepare nurses for formal and informal teaching of nurses, patients, and students, in the healthcare or academic environment.

Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66053 Measurement and Evaluation in Health Sciences	3
NURS 66603 Curriculum Development in Health Professions	3
NURS 66703 Practicum in Nursing Education	3
NURS 66853 Teaching in Advanced Nursing Roles	3
Total Required Hours	**12**

Students are offered admission to their selected MSN Program Option only. Should the student desire to change specialty focus, the student should notify his/her advisor and complete a change of option/major form for Graduate Admissions. A revised goal statement and admission to the new specialty must be accepted by the MSN Program Admissions, Progressions and Credits Committee. Approval of the MSN faculty of the School of Nursing is required for admission.

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites for the Nurse Educator option

1. Computer Competency. Students enrolled in the MSN program are required to possess specific computer competencies. These include the use of electronic mail, use of the World Wide Web, uploading and downloading of files, and access to server capability to support academic programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO MEET MSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Post Masters Certificates may be excluded. (Effective JAN 1, 2014)

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

To establish unconditional admission at the master's degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION'S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MSN PROGRAM OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.

****ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE and are based on posted ADMISSION CRITERIA.***

ADMISSION PROCEDURES NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

APPLYING TO GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

All applicants for the program apply to:

Arkansas State University Online Services

1. O. Box 2520

State University, AR 72467

(870) 972- 2920; astateonline@astate.edu.

Admission requirements may be found on the School of Nursing website

https://www.astate.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-professions/school-of-nursing.html

INACTIVE STATUS FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS STUDY ARE PLACED ON INACTIVE STATUS.

1. Students not enrolled in Nurse Educator Option courses for three sequential semesters, not including summer session, will be moved to inactive status. The Graduate Admissions office will be notified by the School of Nursing Office about the status of the student.
2. Students with an inactive status designation in the Nurse Educator must petition the MSN, Progressions, and Credits Committee for reinstatement. The petition should be directed to the MSN Program Director. The Program Director will consult with the program faculty represented by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee, student's advisor and the Graduate Admissions Office about reinstatement of the student. A revised program of study will be filed. [Students should note that Graduate School policy states, "The time limit allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years . . ." Please refer to current edition of the A-STATE *Graduate Bulletin* for additional information.]

STATUS OF NURSE LICENSURE

Nurse Educator Students must hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse. The unencumbered RN and/or APRN license must be active in the state where clinical practice is scheduled. Individuals admitted pending NCLEX-RN examination results are required to withdraw from the program at the end of the first semester if the examination is not passed. The individual may reapply for admission upon successful completion of the licensing examination. Evidence will be requested throughout the program and the student is responsible for maintaining the unencumbered license throughout the program. If the license status should change at any time, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty advisor and dismissal from the program may be necessary.

RETENTION FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0, according to Graduate school requirements. All MSN students are required to earn a minimum grade of “B” in all courses. Progression in specialty courses requires a grade of “B” or better in all completed specialty courses to date. All policies as represented in the A-State Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School Policies remain in effect, including requisites and co-requisites identified for each course.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed from the program if:

1. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” twice in the same graduate-level nursing course
2. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” in any graduate-level nursing courses in two separate parts of the term (POT) in the same program.
3. Please see the Graduate Information Guide for general dismissal policies and program option-specific related policies.

READMISSION FOR MSN

If students in other program options are not allowed to continue in a program because of the above stipulations, readmission will be considered only after the student submits a formal application for readmission to the appropriate program.

1. Students are not eligible for readmission if:

- The cumulative grade point average is lower than 3.0.
- The student has received a final grade lower than "B" twice in the same course, or has received a grade lower than "B" in professional courses in two separate semesters in the same program.

1. Procedures for application for readmission:

- A student must submit to the School of Nursing MSN Program a completed Nursing application packet by the deadline date for applications. See MSN website for applications.
- All applications for readmission must include a current and complete official transcript.
- Reapplication is not a guarantee of readmission. Readmission is a competitive process dependent on the applicant pool at the time and space availability.

1. Adherence to the Nurse Educator Options application deadlines are mandatory to be considered for readmission. See MSN Program website for the deadline for submitting applications for admission.

CLINICAL ROTATION: POLICIES/PROCEDURES FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

Students will be asked to recommend a short-list of potential preceptors to the clinical coordinator upon acceptance to the program. The Faculty will assure each clinical site meets the university's criteria as a clinical affiliate facility and will arrange any necessary clinical contracts. Students may not begin their clinical rotation until they receive written acceptance of the clinical site and confirmation of an Arkansas State University contract with the precepting facility from the assigned Clinical Coordinator in writing.

All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed. A name-tag will be worn identifying the student as student. name tags can be ordered.

Clinical preceptor packets will be distributed during the first two weeks of the semester. A link is provided to all clinical preceptors for access to the online Preceptor Manual by the assigned clinical faculty.

A clinical log of all clinical practicum hours will be maintained through an electronic format throughout the clinical rotations. These logs will be reviewed throughout the course of the semester during clinical site visits, at semester end, upon completion of program, or at faculty member's request.

CURRENT CONTRACT WITH CLINICAL FACILITY

When sites for student clinical experiences are identified, unless a special form is required, the chair or program director submits a request for preparation/ execution of the *Clinical Affiliation Agreement* to the dean's office. If special forms are required by the agency, the chair or program director should obtain and prepare these and submit them to the dean for review. Signed copies are maintained by the Dean and the VCRAA.

****Before sending students to a clinical site, chairs/program directors/clinical coordinators should be sure the College has a current and valid clinical agreement and note what special stipulations are required by the facility.*

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP) OPTION

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION MISSION

The mission of the graduate nursing program is to prepare nurses who can provide and support advanced nursing practice, integrate nursing and related theories, utilize and participate in

research, engage in collaborative relationships, provide leadership in the nursing arena, and demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic, social, professional, educational, legal and ethical realities which have an impact on nursing and health care.

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION PURPOSE

The purposes of the PMHNP Option:

1. To prepare nurses who possess theoretical knowledge, leadership, collaborative, and advanced practice skills necessary to enhance the nursing profession and improve health care.
2. To prepare advanced clinicians whose research knowledge enables them to evaluate and utilize research findings in practice and participate in scientific investigation.
3. To provide a basis for professional growth and a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Graduate nursing education builds on a foundation of undergraduate nursing education and provides an opportunity for professional nurses to develop a specialty practice that is congruent with an expanding theoretical and empirical knowledge base. The graduate program in nursing is designed to assist professional nurses to prepare for advanced clinical and functional roles that demand increased accountability, expertise, and leadership. The master's program facilitates the use of the research process through the course of study and prepares the graduate to be a critical thinker and a self-directed professional who collaborates with consumers and other health care providers.

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION OUTCOMES

The program objectives emphasize study in the areas of theory, research, role, practice, and health policy. Upon completion of study for the Master of Science in nursing, the student is expected to be able to:

Proposed MSN End-of-Program SLOs:

1. Interpret theories and concepts from nursing, the arts, humanities, sciences, and evidence-based practice to guide clinical and professional judgment in nursing practice.
2. Support person-centered care while respecting diversity and the unique determinants of individuals and populations.
3. Incorporate leadership and collaborative roles in the planning, provision, and management of services to influence policy for individuals, families, and populations.
4. Develop authentic leadership within complex health systems for the improvement of safe, cost-effective, quality health care for diverse populations.
5. Model professionalism in nursing practice through accountability to ethical and legal standards
6. Evaluate critical inquiry to advance the discipline and profession of nursing.
7. Incorporate information systems and technology to evaluate programs of care, outcomes of care, and care systems.

ROLES SPECIFIC NURSE PRACTITIONER COMPETENCIES

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/competencies/20220825_nonpf_np_role_core_.pdf

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION (PMHNP)

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) option prepares nurses with the complex practice skills and theoretical knowledge necessary for roles in advanced nursing and leadership in the contemporary health care system. Graduate study in nursing is the basis for professional growth in advanced practice roles and the foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**
Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66063 Psychotherapy for Clinical Practice	3
NURS 66073 Advanced Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 6633v Child Seminar 1	1.5
NURS 6634v Adolescent Seminar 2	1.5
NURS 6635v Adult Seminar 3	1.5
NURS 6636v Older Adult Seminar 4	1.5
NURS 6637v Trauma Seminar 5	1.5
NURS 6638v Substance Abuse Seminar 6	1.5
NURS 66102 Clinical Practicum 1	2

NURS 66132 Clinical Practicum 2	2
NURS 66142 Clinical Practicum 3	2
NURS 66152 Clinical Practicum 4	2
NURS 66162 Clinical Practicum 5	2
NURS 6600v Clinical Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**27.5**
Total Required Hours:	**47.5**

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION (PMHNP): BEGINNING SPRING 2026

Core Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66103 Research Design and Methodology	3
NURS 66203 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NURS 66303 Health Care Issues and Policy	3
NURS 66402 Professional Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
Sub-total	**11**
Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66063 Psychotherapy for Clinical Practice	3
NURS 66073 Advanced Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 60313 PMHNP Seminar 1	3
NURS 60334 PMHNP Practicum 1 (240 Clinical Hours)	4

NURS 61133 PMHNP Seminar 2	3
NURS 61134 PMHNP Practicum 2 (240 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 64433 PMHNP Seminar 3	3
NURS 6013V PMHNP Practicum 3 (270 Clinical Hours)	4.5
Sub-total	**27.5**
Total Required Hours:	**47.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate is available to RNs who have recent clinical experience and have completed a MSN with advanced preparation in another specialty area from an accredited institution. Graduates of a MSN program with a PMHNP option that did not include the required certification eligibility requirements from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and/or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology; Advanced Health Assessment, including diagnostics and disease management; Advanced Pharmacology; and/or minimum of 500 faculty super- vised clinical hours) are also eligible to apply. A request for a curriculum “Gap Analysis” to determine an individual Plan of Study will be requested from the Program Coordinator prior to admission.

Requirements:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66063 Psychotherapy for Clinical Practice	3
NURS 66073 Advanced Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 6633v Child Seminar 1	1.5
NURS 6634v Adolescent Seminar 2	1.5
NURS 6635v Adult Seminar 3	1.5

NURS 6636v Older Adult Seminar 4	1.5
NURS 6637v Trauma Seminar 5	1.5
NURS 6638v Substance Abuse Seminar 6	1.5
NURS 66102 Clinical Practicum 1	2
NURS 66132 Clinical Practicum 2	2
NURS 66142 Clinical Practicum 3	2
NURS 66152 Clinical Practicum 4	2
NURS 66162 Clinical Practicum 5	2
NURS 6600v Clinical Practicum 6	2.5
Sub-total	**27.5**
Total Required Hours:	**27.5 - 36.5**

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION: BEGINNING SPRING 2026

Support Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66003 Advanced Clinical Physiology	3
NURS 66033 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS 66043 Advanced Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation	3
Sub-total	**9**
Advanced Practice Courses:	**Sem. Hrs.**
NURS 66063 Psychotherapy for Clinical Practice	3
NURS 66073 Advanced Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 60313 PMHNP Seminar 1	3
NURS 60334 PMHNP Practicum 1 (240 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 61133 PMHNP Seminar 2	3
NURS 61134 PMHNP Practicum 2 (240 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 64433 PMHNP Seminar 3	3
NURS 6013V PMHNP Practicum 3 (270 Clinical Hours)	4.5

Sub-total	**27.5**
Total Required Hours:	**27.5 - 36.5**

ADDITIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

Students in the PMHNP option must have a current liability policy as a “PMHNP Student” before enrolling in PMHNP clinical courses.

Students are offered admission to their selected MSN option only. Should the student desire to change options, the student should notify his/her advisor and complete a change of option/major form for Graduate Admissions. A revised goal statement and admission to the new option must be accepted by the MSN Program Admissions, Progressions and Credits Committee. Approval of the MSN faculty of the School of Nursing is required for admission. Students wanting to change MSN options must be in academic good standing and be approved by the MSN faculty.

PMHNP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITES FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER OPTION

Computer Competency. Students enrolled in the MSN and DNP programs are required to possess specific computer competencies. These include the use of electronic mail, use of the World Wide Web, uploading and downloading of files, and access to server capability to support academic programs.

TRANSFER CREDITS TO MEET MSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Post Masters Certificates may be excluded. (Effective JAN 1, 2014)

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

To establish unconditional admission at the master's degree level, applicants must have a required GPA and an approved criminal background check. All courses attempted, including any repeated courses, are considered in the computation of the grade point average.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSION’S OFFICE AND MEETING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

FOR MSN OPTIONS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO ALL MAJORS.

****ADMISSION DECISIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ARE NON-GRIEVABLE and are based on posted ADMISSION CRITERIA.***

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

APPLYING TO THE GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

All applicants for the PMHNP program apply to:

Arkansas State University Online Services

1. O. Box 2520

State University, AR 72467

(870)972- 2920; astateonline@astate.edu

Admission requirements may be found on the School of Nursing website

https://www.astate.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-professions/school-of-nursing.html

INACTIVE STATUS FOR PMHNP

STUDENTS (with the exception of DNP NA students) WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS STUDY ARE PLACED ON INACTIVE STATUS.

1. Students not enrolled in PMHNP option courses for three sequential semesters, not including summer session, will be moved to inactive status. The Graduate Admissions office will be notified by the School of Nursing Office about the status of the student.
2. Students with an inactive status designation in the PMHNP option must petition the MSN, Progressions, and Credits Committee for reinstatement. The petition should be directed to the MSN Program Director. The Program Director will consult with the program faculty represented by the Admissions, Progressions, and Credits Committee, student's advisor, and the Graduate Admissions Office about reinstatement of the student. A revised program of study will be filed. [Students should note that Graduate School policy states, "The time limit allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years . . ." Please refer to the current edition of the *A-STATE Graduate Bulletin* for additional information.] (Policy approved April 12, 1999 by MSN Faculty, Admission, Progressions, and Credits Committee.)

STATUS OF NURSE LICENSURE

PMHNP Students must hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse. The unencumbered RN and/or APRN license must be active in the state where clinical practice is scheduled. Evidence will be requested throughout the program and the student is responsible for maintaining the unencumbered license throughout the program. If the license status should change at any time, the student is responsible for notifying the faculty advisor and dismissal from the program may be necessary.

RETENTION/PROGRESSION TO THE PMHNP OPTION

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0, according to Graduate school requirements. All MSN students are required to earn a minimum grade of "B" in all courses. Progression in specialty courses requires a grade of "B" or better in all completed specialty courses to date. All policies as represented in the A-State Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School Policies remain in effect,

including requisites and co-requisites identified for each course.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed from the MSN program if:

1. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” twice in the same graduate-level nursing course
2. The student receives a final grade lower than a “B” in any graduate-level nursing courses in two separate parts of the term (POT) in the same program.
3. Please see the Graduate Information Guide for general dismissal policies and program option-specific related policies.

READMISSION TO THE MSN PROGRAM

If students in other options are not allowed to continue in a program because of the above stipulations, readmission will be considered only after the student submits a formal application for readmission to the appropriate program.

1. Students are not eligible for readmission to any MSN option if:

- The cumulative grade point average is lower than 3.0.
- The student has received a final grade lower than "B" twice in the same course, or has received a grade lower than "B" in professional courses in two separate semesters in the same program. [In Nursing, withdrawal from a nursing course to avoid a failing grade is considered the same as receiving a grade lower than "B."]
- Procedures for application for readmission:

- All applications for readmission must include a current and complete official transcript.
- Reapplication is not a guarantee of readmission. Readmission is a competitive process dependent on the applicant pool at the time and space availability.

- Adherence to the PMHNP Option application deadline are mandatory to be considered for readmission. See A-State websites for the deadline for submitting applications for admission. https://www.astate.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-professions/school-of-nursing.html

PMHNP CLINICAL ROTATION: POLICIES/PROCEDURES FOR THE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION

Prior to beginning any clinical activities, students must have on file in the clinical tracking system the following documentation:

1. Active license to practice as a registered nurse in the state where clinical practice is scheduled

2. Professional liability insurance as an “PMHNP Student” (minimum $1,000,000/$3,000,000)
3. Current TB skin test, TSPOT, or evidence of negative finding from chest x-ray
4. CPR certification (professional level)
5. Verified Credentials (background check)
6. Evidence of Hepatitis B immunization, current Hepatitis B Titer or signed declination statement
7. MMR
8. Tetanus
9. Influenza vaccine
10. Health clearance form

Students will be asked to recommend a short-list of potential preceptors to the clinical coordinator upon acceptance to the PMHNP Program. The Clinical Coordinator will assure each clinical site meets the university’s criteria as a clinical affiliate facility and will arrange any necessary clinical contracts.

Students may not begin their clinical rotation until they receive written acceptance of the clinical site and confirmation of an Arkansas State University contract with the precepting facility from the assigned Clinical Instructor in writing.

All students are required to dress professionally. A white lab coat will be worn which is freshly laundered and ironed (not for PMHNP students who will wear business casual). A name-tag will be worn identifying the student as an A-State PMHNP student. Name tags can be ordered.

Clinical preceptor packets will be distributed during the first two weeks of the semester. A link is provided to all clinical preceptors for access to the online Preceptor Manual by the assigned clinical faculty.

A clinical log of all clinical practicum hours will be maintained through an electronic format throughout the clinical rotations. These logs will be reviewed throughout the course of the semester during clinical site visits, at semester end, upon completion of program, or at faculty member’s request. Every effort should be made to obtain a preceptor initial or signature to verify clinical time at the completion of each day's clinical experience.

CURRENT CONTRACT WITH CLINICAL FACILITY

When sites for student clinical experiences are identified, unless a special form is required, the chair or program director submits a request for preparation/ execution of the *Clinical Affiliation Agreement* to the dean's office. If special forms are required by the agency, the chair or program director should obtain and prepare these and submit them to the dean for review. Signed copies are maintained by the Dean and the VCRAA. ****Before sending students to a clinical site, chairs/program directors/clinical coordinators should be sure the College has a current and valid clinical agreement and note what special stipulations are required by the facility.*

REVIEW COURSE & STANDARDIZED EXAMS

PMHNP students will be required to attend a Fitzgerald Review Course as part of their program of study at the student’s expense during the last year of course work. Standardized predictor exams will be administered throughout the program of study at the student’s expense. A national normed exam will be given at or near the last semester of the program at the student’s expense. Failure of the above nationally normed exam requires formalized remediation and/or independent study at the student’s own expense and must be completed prior to graduation. This formalized remediation must be completed as assigned. Failure to complete remediation may result in student failure to progress in the program. The faculty will assist with formal remediation.

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