

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF NURSING

MSN GRADUATE PROGRAM

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION AND PURPOSES

Founded in 1901 as a private industrial school to educate African American citizens of north central Louisiana, Grambling State University, a constituent institution in the University of Louisiana System, is now a comprehensive university offering undergraduate, graduate, professional and continuing educational programs. All programs are designed to meet the educational needs of a clientele that is primarily statewide and secondarily national and international.

Grambling State University assumes in a unique way the role of a public university. It strives:

1. to provide equal access to higher education for all applicants regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, disability, and veteran status;
2. to provide opportunities for students to develop intellectually, to acquire appropriate job skills, and to achieve self actualization through instruction, research, public service, and special programs which seek to meet the needs of all students, including those who have been adversely affected by educational, social, and economic deprivation;
3. to generate new knowledge through pure and applied research related to curricular emphases in business, science and technology, nursing, social work, liberal arts, and education;
4. to render service to the community and to the citizenry of Louisiana, dedicated to raising the standard of living and enhancing the quality of life through economic development, entrepreneurial activities and life-long learning;
5. to expose students to opportunities that enhance their potential for appreciation of diverse cultures;
6. to provide opportunities for students to utilize information technologies in preparation for participation in a global society; and
7. to serve as a repository for preserving the heritage of people of African American descent.

Grambling State University endeavors to achieve excellence in higher education through teaching, research, and service governed by the principles of academic freedom. The university believes that education is the cornerstone of an enlightened, creative, and productive society. It strives to be true to its motto: Grambling State University is “the place where everybody is somebody”.

SACS ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Grambling State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees.

**GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING
MSN GRADUATE PROGRAM**

MISSION AND PURPOSES

The Grambling State University mission statement evokes the philosophy that education is the cornerstone of a creative, enlightened, participative, and responsive society. In the School of Nursing Graduate Program students are encouraged to think critically, nurture healthy mental and physical habits, understand social institutions and their influence in society, and integrate knowledge acquired in advanced practice nursing roles.

The mission of the School of Nursing Graduate Nursing Program is to provide advanced knowledge, intellectual skills, and clinical competence for specialization in nursing practice.

The mission of the FNP Program is to prepare graduates to deliver primary health care to individuals, families, and aggregates with a particular focus on the promotion of wellness and disease prevention for clients in underserved rural and community areas.

The mission of the PNP Program is to prepare graduates who can deliver primary health care in school based health clinics, private pediatric practices, and public health pediatric practice sites across the state to provide quality health interventions for infants, toddlers, school aged children, and adolescents.

The mission of the Nurse Educator Program is to prepare nurse educators for the nurse educator role in university, college, or health care agency setting.

PHILOSOPHY

The School of Nursing is consistent with the University philosophy through the program's foci on the nursing and health care needs of the population in the Grambling service area. Nursing students in the graduate program are encouraged to continue to utilize and refine critical thinking skills through didactic discussion in classrooms and clinical practice situations. Students learn to utilize a holistic approach to client care, incorporating data assimilated from assessment of physical, mental, social, spiritual, and family systems of the client.

Graduate nursing education includes instruction, which focuses on the ethnic, cultural, and social content needed for students to make accurate clinical decisions and deliver care in a manner congruent with national standards and acceptable to the population of the rural area it serves. Nursing theorists and research provide a foundation for the development and integration of theoretical frameworks of practice for students matriculating through the program. The faculty of the School of Nursing, in keeping with the mission of the University, provide an environment for learning, which enables students to maximize their learning potential. Commitment to total student development is promoted through an atmosphere conducive to human dignity, respect,

and productivity. Graduate students are prepared for life-long learning, self-actualization, and service to the community.

Beliefs of the faculty of the Grambling State University School of Nursing regarding the concepts of individuals, family, aggregates, society, health, nursing, and teaching/learning are expounded as follows:

INDIVIDUAL

The individual is a multidimensional being, inclusive of biological, psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual aspects. Each individual operates in an open system in constant interaction with a dynamic environment. Although individuals share common characteristics and needs, each individual is unique, with dignity and equal rights, and is an integral part of family, group, and community systems of society. The individual utilizes adaptive mechanisms in response to internal and external environmental changes. These adaptive mechanisms are innate and acquired from the biological, psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual aspects of one's environment. Successful utilization of adaptive mechanisms enables the individual to achieve specific life tasks and fulfill basic needs.

FAMILY

A family is a group of two or more individuals whose association is characterized by special terms, who function in such a way that they consider themselves to be a family by their interactions, communication, and sharing of a common culture. Family nursing includes a focus on family dynamics and family interventions, which involve the family members in the areas of decision making and caregiving for members of the family unit. Family health nurses see the family as a context, as a sum of its members, and as a whole client.

AGGREGATES

An aggregate is a grouping of individuals, families, or others who are associated because of similar social, personal, health care, or other needs or interests. For advanced practice nurses, care of aggregate populations relates to health promotion, disease prevention, and wellness care for groups of patients with similar health care needs, i.e. a group of individuals with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, or a group of individuals with mental health care needs.

SOCIETY

Society's components are considered to be multi-variant with respect to ethnic origin, culture and socioeconomic status. Students served at Grambling State University and the School of Nursing are derived from this multi-variant society. Society influences all individuals and enables them to exercise a choice in promoting personal, professional, and community welfare. In a democratic society, dignity of the individual is respected regardless of race, gender, creed, or status.

HEALTH

Health is believed to be a relative state that is dynamic and consists of a degree of wellness and illness along a continuum. Illness is visualized as the maladaptive response to stressors, whereas wellness is seen as the ability of the individual to cope with stressors through the adaptation process. These concepts encompass individuals, families, and communities. Graduate nursing students focus on the promotion of wellness and prevention of illness throughout the course of study. Individuals and family groups will be taught adaptive means to cope with stressors of illness to enable them to return to an optimal level of health.

NURSING

The American Nurses Association (1980) defines nursing as “the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual and potential problems”. Graduate nursing students utilize the nursing process to identify diagnoses and treatment interventions for individuals seeking health care in the primary care setting. The graduate nursing education program in the Family Nurse Practitioner option builds on knowledge acquired through basic nursing preparation and clinical experiences to prepare advanced practice nurses capable of providing primary health care for individuals, families, and communities.

Primary health care involves the provision of health care services in an accessible manner, which addresses the personal health care needs of an identified population. Advanced practice nurses engage in the nursing process with defined advanced practice nursing skills and competencies to diagnose and treat primary health care needs. In primary care, the advanced practice nurse utilizes a holistic approach to address illness, promote wellness, and prevent disease. Core competencies of the advanced practice nursing role include: (a) clinical practice expertise; (b) expert guidance and teaching; (c) consultation; (d) research utilization; (e) leadership; (f) collaboration; (g) change agent skills; and (h) ethical decision making skills.

In keeping with the University mission to meet the needs of the citizens of the north central region of Louisiana, the graduate nursing program focuses on the issues and challenges of rural health care delivery. Rural nursing is unique in that it requires advanced practice nurses who have highly developed levels of assessment, decision making, and communication skills, as well as the ability to understand the role of family in health care decisions. Many clients in rural areas have limited access to health care resources due to restricted transportation and other resources. Advanced practice nurses in partnership with persons, families, groups, and communities engage in the dynamic process of wellness promotion.

The overall focus of the graduate nursing program is wellness promotion, or enabling clients to have control over their own health situations. Through primary prevention in health education and protection from illness and injury; secondary prevention, which attempts to limit illness; and tertiary preventions involving rehabilitation and restoration of wellness, the graduate nurse identifies specific therapeutic interventions to promote wellness for the clients served.

TEACHING/LEARNING

Teaching is a process, which includes the imparting of knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes to the learner, with the teacher as facilitator. Learning is a process of growth and maturation involving the whole person in an active and creative process. Learning has occurred when there is a demonstration of change in the learner's behavior.

ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK

The graduate nursing program builds upon the organizing framework of the baccalaureate program, which is based on the nursing process and the Modeling Role Modeling theory. Within the framework of the MRM theory, faculty members utilize skills of nurturance, unconditional acceptance, and facilitation to enable graduate nursing students to achieve academic success in their matriculation through the curriculum plan. Advanced practice nursing students consistently utilize a problem oriented process to gather and assimilate client data, identify nursing and medical diagnoses, establish a management guideline-based plan of treatment, and conduct evaluation of client outcomes. Practitioners of nursing impact the health care of individuals, families, and communities to promote health lifestyles and prevent illness. The wellness promotion process involves collaboration and communication among nurses, physicians, families, groups, and communities to meet identified goals. The faculty of the graduate nursing program believe that the achievement of these goals are enhanced by the following enabling factors:

Human caring in nursing is a set of interpersonal acts that extend beyond concern, emotion, and benevolent desire. Caring in this context involves values, commitment, knowledge, actions, and outcomes.

Communication within the context of nursing is a dynamic, interpersonal process, which can be either verbal or non-verbal and is influenced by culture, setting, values, beliefs, and perceptions. Graduate nursing students engage in increasingly complex levels of communication skills throughout the program of study.

Ethical principles that include autonomy, freedom, veracity, privacy, fidelity, and justice are used to clarify and resolve identified ethical dilemmas. The American Nurses Association Code for Nurses provides guidelines for ethical nursing practice.

Critical thinking is the process, which employs purposeful, interactive, reflective and reasoning skills to evaluate clinical situations. Graduate nursing students are encouraged to demonstrate open-mindedness, truth seeking, and maturity as they engage in critical thinking activities in the classroom and clinical settings.

Empowerment is an interpersonal process by which the recipient is provided with resources to participate in their own enhancement. Graduate nursing faculty strive to empower advanced practice nursing students with critical thinking abilities to enable them to function effectively in primary health care settings. Advanced practice nurses empower clients to be active participants in their own wellness promotion activities and decision making.

Research involves a process of scientific inquiry and problem investigation to validate theories related to health care interventions and hypotheses regarding approaches to client care.

Graduate nursing students are expected to participate actively in research activities, as well as to demonstrate integration of research findings in their advanced practice nursing care.

Cultural sensitivity in nursing takes into account the individual person's perceptions manifested through beliefs, practices, likes, dislikes, customs, etc. which have been handed down from generation to generation.

Graduate nursing faculty employ the theoretical works of Patricia Benner's Novice to Expert in the development of course content from the fundamental to the complex level. Experienced BSN nursing graduates are prepared in the role of novice advanced practice nurses and strive toward basic competence in the FNP and PNP roles. Competencies and scope of practice identified by the American Nurses Association for advanced practice nurses are utilized in planning course content and evaluation of student performance. Course content guidelines published by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Curriculum Guideline Task Force (1995, 2003, 2011), the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Advanced Registered Nursing (1996), the American Association of College's of Nursing's Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (2011). The National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education's Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (2008) and Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Competencies in Specialty Areas (2011) US Department HHS are utilized in program design.

The graduate nursing program's Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner options at Grambling State University seeks to prepare advanced practice nurses capable of:

Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies (NONPF April 2011)

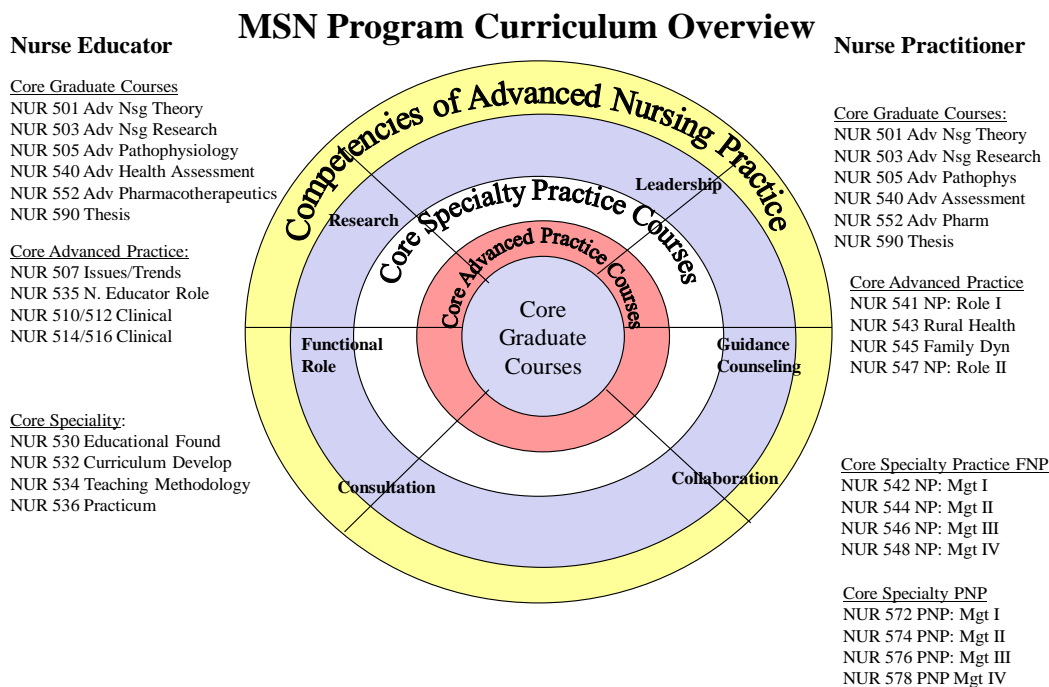
1. Scientific Foundation Competencies
 - a. Graduates will critically analyze data and evidence for nursing practice
 - b. Integrate knowledge from humanities and sciences
 - c. Translate research and other knowledge to improve practice processes
2. Leadership Competencies
 - a. Graduates will assume complex and advanced leadership roles, guide change, foster collaboration with multiple stakeholders, advocate for improved access, quality, and cost effective health care, and demonstrate leadership with critical and reflective thinking
3. Quality Competencies
 - a. Graduates will utilize best available evidence to guide practice
 - b. Graduates will evaluate relationships of access, cost, quality and safety on health care
 - c. Evaluate organizational structures, care processes, financing, policy decisions, and variations in practice to ensure quality care
4. Practice Inquiry Competencies
 - a. Leads practice inquiry, disseminates evidence from inquiry, applies clinical investigative skills to improve health outcomes

5. Technology and Information Literacy Competencies
 - a. Integrates technologies for knowledge management to improve health and aid in complex decision making
 - b. Utilizes technology to capture data on variables for evaluation of nursing
6. Policy Competencies
 - a. Demonstrates understanding of policy and practice interdependence, analyzes ethical, legal and social factors that promote access, equity, quality and cost
 - b. Advocates for ethical policies, contributes to development of health policy
7. Health Delivery System Competencies
 - a. Effects health care change through negotiation, consensus building, and partnering
 - b. Facilitates development of health care systems that address needs of culturally diverse populations, providers, and other stakeholders
 - c. Analyzes organizational structure, functions, and resources to improve the delivery of care
8. Ethics Competencies
 - a. Integrates ethical principles and applies ethically sound solutions to complex issues
9. Independent Practice Competencies
 - a. Functions as a licensed independent practitioner with a high level of accountability for professional practice
 - b. Provides patient centered care recognizing cultural diversity and the patient as a full partner in decision making

There are three distinct nurse educator roles identified in the literature: the teacher role, the scholar role, and the collaborator role. Graduate competencies are identified for each of these roles. Students enrolled in the Nurse Educator program will be capable of the following competencies:

Nurse Educator Competencies (NLN)

1. Facilitate Teaching
2. Facilitate Learner Development and Socialization
3. Use Assessment and Evaluation Strategies
4. Participate in Curriculum Design and Evaluation of Program Outcomes
5. Function as a Change Agent and Leader
6. Pursue Continuous Quality Improvement in the Nurse Educator Role
7. Engage in Scholarship
8. Function Within the Educational Environment



Adapted with permission from:
 Hamric, A. B., Spross, J. A. & Hanson, C.M. (1999). Advanced Nursing Practice: An integrative approach (2nd ed.) Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders, Co.

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

The faculty and students of the GSU School of Nursing graduate program declare that students have the following rights:

1. Access to a quality education.
2. Treatment that is respectful and fair.
3. Equal treatment regardless of race, color, sex, age, or religion.
4. Representation on faculty committees and faculty meetings.
5. Freedom to express differing views of their classmates and faculty without fear of retribution.
6. Access to appeal procedures through University processes.
7. Confidentiality of all records.
8. Access to the Dean of the School of Nursing to discuss any matter necessary.
9. Access to their permanent records in the presence of a faculty member.
10. Freedom to pursue knowledge of their own choosing in addition to the prescribed curriculum.

GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

CORE COURSES		Cr Hr
NUR 501	Advanced Nursing Science Theory	3
NUR 503	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NUR 505	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 540	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 552	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NUR 580/590	Research Project/Thesis Option	3/6
ELECTIVE	(If research project elected)	3

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION COURSES		Cr Hr
NUR 540	NP: Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 541	NP: Role I	1
NUR 542	NP: Advanced Health Management I	4
NUR 544	NP: Advanced Health Management II	4
NUR 546	NP: Advanced Health Management III	4
NUR 547	NP: Role II	1
NUR 548	NP: Advanced Health Management IV	5
NUR 552	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NUR 553	Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
NUR 599	Comprehensive Examination	0

PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER OPTION COURSES		Cr Hr
NUR 540	NP: Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 541	NP: Role I	1
NUR 572	PNP: Advanced Health Management I	4
NUR 574	PNP: Advanced Health Management II	4
NUR 576	PNP: Advanced Health Management III	4
NUR 547	NP: Role II	1
NUR 578	PNP: Advanced Health Management IV	5
NUR 552	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NUR 553	Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
NUR 599	Comprehensive Examination	0

NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION COURSES**Cr Hr**

NUR 507	Issues and Trends in Nursing	3
NUR 510	Women's Health	4
NUR 512	Pediatric Health	4
NUR 514	Adult Health I	4
NUR 516	Adult Health II	4
NUR 530	Educational Foundations for Nursing	3
NUR 532	Curriculum Development for Nurse Educators	3
NUR 534	Teaching Methodologies	3
NUR 535	Nurse Educator Role	1
NUR 536	Practicum in Nursing Education	3

SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICIES FOR GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM

Policies affecting graduate nursing students at GSU are publicly accessible, non-discriminatory, and consistently applied. The Grambling State University School of Nursing Graduate Program provides information to students regarding policies within the School of Nursing through the means of Student Handbook, course syllabi, handouts, and classroom announcements. Additional sources of information related to student policies are published in the Grambling State University Catalog. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and procedures. Policies specific to the School of Nursing are included herein. Course specific policies are included in individual course syllabi.

Accreditation Status

The Grambling State University School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program has been approved by the University of Louisiana Systems. Initial accreditation of the program for five years was awarded by the National League of Nursing Accreditation Council (NLNAC) in June 2000. The program was awarded full eight years accreditation status in June 2004 and in July 2012 received an additional eight year accreditation status. Concerns regarding the program or the accreditation process may be addressed to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN); formerly known as the NLNAC, at the following:

ACEN
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
404-975-5000
www.nlnac.org

Academic Dishonesty Policy

A student deemed to have committed academic dishonesty as defined in the Grambling State University Catalog 2009-2011 (p. 37) will receive a minimum penalty of a grade of “F” in the course in which the infraction occurred; the maximum penalty for a first offense is suspension from the University for the remainder of the semester. Penalty for a second offense is indefinite suspension from the University.

Cheating

Cheating refers to the possession of unauthorized sources of information during an examination; copying the work of another student, or permitting copying by another student during an exam; completing an assignment for another student; submitting out-of-class work for an in-class assignment; altering graded work after faculty evaluation, retaining exams or other materials after they were supposed to be returned to faculty, falsifying data on in-class assignments or clinical materials.

Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is the copying or paraphrasing of material from another source other than the mind of the author unless that material is considered general knowledge. Three conditions must be present for information to be considered general knowledge: (a) it may be found in writings of several authors; (b) it is written entirely in the words of the student; and (c) it is not paraphrased from any particular source. If in doubt, it is always better to be overly cautious and cite rather than under cautious and not cite a reference.

Any student assignment which is determined to include plagiarism will be given the grade of "0" for that assignment. At the discretion of the faculty, the penalty for plagiarism could include an assignment of a grade of "F" for that course and suspension from the program for a minimum of two semesters.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Grambling State University School of Nursing Graduate Program is competitive. The first step in the admissions process is to apply for admission to the School of Graduate Studies (applications online at www.gram.edu). The second step is to apply for admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program (application online at <http://www.gram.edu/academics/majors/professional%20studies/departments/nursing/degrees/grad.php>) To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Nursing Program, applicants must have met the following minimum requirements:

Regular Admission

1. Admission to the School of Graduate Studies at Grambling State University.
2. Application for admission to the graduate nursing program.
3. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a program accredited by the NLN.
4. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for nursing degree courses.
5. Official transcripts of all colleges and universities attended received by the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Nursing.
6. Official record of GRE scores must have been taken within 5 years of admission into graduate program. Minimum scores expected on GRE: Verbal 140, Quantitative 140, Analytical 3.0.
7. Completion of health assessment course taught in an accredited nursing program with a grade of "C" or better.
8. Completion of statistics course with a grade of "C" or better.
9. Letters of recommendation from three professional/academic references received by the School of Nursing and the School of Graduate Studies.
10. Minimum work experience as an RN of two years.
11. Graduate level writing course, NUR 500, or acceptable substitute approved by faculty
12. Completion of admission interview with the School of Nursing graduate faculty.

Provisional Admission

Graduate nursing students may be admitted to the School of Graduate Studies on a provisional status while in the process of obtaining required credentials. See the current Grambling State University Catalog for specific details.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission may be granted to applicants who fail to meet all criteria for regular admission; including GPA and GRE scores. The conditional status will be changed to regular admission status when the student has earned a “B” average (3.0) in twelve (12) semester hours of graduate study with not more than one grade of “C” in any non-clinical course. See the current Grambling State University Catalog for specific details.

Advisement

Each graduate nursing student in the Master of Science in Nursing program will be assigned a faculty advisor. Advisors are available for assisting students in planning their program of study and in reviewing with the student their progress on a periodic basis. Clinical course syllabi specify frequency of required student advisor face to face or email conferences to discuss clinical objectives and activities in each specific course. Student advisement may occur via office appointment, scheduled telephone appointments, internet messaging or voice messaging with the approval of the student’s faculty advisor.

Attendance Policy

It is the belief of the School of Nursing that classroom attendance is important to academic achievement and professional development. Adult learners are expected to make decisions that will facilitate the learning process for themselves as individuals. Attendance in class is not required at the graduate level, but it is expected. In some classes, attendance may be a requirement of a specific course, especially if group participation is an expected outcome for learning to occur.

In many graduate nursing courses, participation in classroom activities is expected as demonstration of professional role behavior and is included in determination of course grades. Anticipated classroom absences should be discussed with faculty prior to the date for approval.

Prolonged illness or multiple absences or repeated tardiness may prevent attainment of terminal course objectives resulting in a failing grade for the course.

Clinical Attendance Policy

Specific clinical hours required are identified in individual course syllabi. Requirements for completion of a clinical course dictate that all clinical hours must be completed during the semester in which the course is taken. Failure to complete clinical hours within that semester will result in a grade of “F” for the course. All clinical check offs must be completed during the semester in which the grade is awarded, no check offs will be performed beyond the semester end date. If there are extenuating circumstances preventing a student from completing the required clinical hours (i.e. severe illness) within a particular semester, the student may petition their clinical faculty advisor and the MSN Program Director for an extension to complete the required hours. This decision will be at the discretion of the faculty member and the MSN Program Director.

If the graduate nursing student has scheduled hours in a clinical site and is unable to attend at the scheduled time, or anticipates a tardy arrival in the clinical site, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the personnel in the clinical area at least one hour prior to the designated clinical time, and to notify the faculty in the School of Nursing. It is the responsibility of the student to reschedule any missed clinical hours. Failure to attend scheduled clinical hours in a specific clinical site may result in loss of privileges to attend that clinical site for the duration of program enrollment.

All full time traditional nurse practitioner students are required to complete a minimum of 668 clinical clock hours during the course of enrollment in the MSN program. All hours must be validated by the clinical preceptor in the clinical area in which the hours were earned. The MSN faculty will keep an ongoing log of all clinical hours submitted for each semester, and for the program total. Students are advised to keep copies of clinical hours and use these to validate the faculty log of clinical hours each semester. Clinical hour tickets should be submitted to faculty on a regular basis as indicated in the course syllabus. See the course syllabi for specifics on clinical hour requirements per course.

Post master’s certificate students (fast track) are required to complete a minimum of 500 clinical hours during their course of study in the program. Clinical hours will be awarded to the fast track students for their area of pre-program specialty, based on the GSU program requirements, i.e. a pediatric nurse practitioner enrolled in the fast track will be awarded credit for pediatric clinical hours based on his/her private clinical practice prior to enrollment. These hours will not exceed the number of pediatric hours required in the GSU program.

Carry Over Clinical Hours

In most semesters, FNP and PNP students may be allowed, at the discretion of MSN faculty, to “carry over” clinical hours into a subsequent semester. No carry over hours are permitted in the first semester of study (NUR 540). Carry over hours may be permitted in any of the NP Management courses. Students may be permitted to carry over up to 10% of the subsequent semester’s required family practice hours (example: in NUR 542 Management I a student may

earn enough clinical hours to carry over up to 7.2 hours into NUR 544 Management II {7.2 hours is 10% of the required 72 hours in NUR 544})

If the student desires to earn clinical hours during a semester break, the student first must make certain that a faculty advisor will be available by telephone during the break time. If faculty are not locally available during the break time, the student will not be permitted to earn clinical hours during that time.

Clinical Requirements

Students enrolled in the clinical nursing courses must meet the School of Nursing's requirements for CPR Course C certification, current RN licensure, current malpractice coverage, and health related paperwork requirements. Specific health requirements include completion of the Physical Examination form, annual documentation of PPD or chest x-ray, and completion of required immunizations (Rubella titer, MMR, and Hepatitis B or appropriate declination letter). Clinical requirements must be updated at least annually to remain current throughout enrollment in the graduate nursing program. Students will be required to bring original documents and a copy of each prior to clinical assignments in each semester.

Certified Background Checks will maintain an online repository for all student clinical information. Students will follow instructions provided for submission of required documentation. All students **MUST** be cleared completely with all documents posted **PRIOR** to attending clinical site rotations.

Clinical Site Selection

Clinical sites are selected based on the potential for clinical learning experiences. A student may attend several clinical sites throughout the course of the program, based on the clinical needs of the specific course the student is taking in a given semester. All clinical sites must be approved by faculty prior to utilization of that site.

Graduate nursing students will **NOT** be permitted to earn clinical hours in their place of employment. No student will be permitted to participate in a clinical activity for reimbursement; i.e. students are not to be paid by the facility in which the clinical hours are earned.

Specific instructions for clinical site selection will be identified in each course syllabus. Students will be instructed in the syllabus regarding the number of specialty hours required to meet the learning needs for each semester.

The faculty and students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of any clinical site or affiliating agency utilized for clinical experiences. Failure to abide by agency or clinical site rules will result in removal of the student from that clinical site and possible dismissal from the MSN program, at the discretion of the graduate faculty.

Clinical Preceptor Selection

Clinical experiences for all graduate nursing students are to occur only in clinical sites which have been approved by the graduate nursing faculty. Clinical contracts are required for each clinical site/preceptor utilized by graduate nursing students. All new clinical preceptors will be contacted by the School of Nursing faculty to determine the appropriateness of the site and the preceptor for the student's clinical assignments.

Requirements for clinical preceptors include:

1. Unencumbered licensure status as an MD, a NP, or a graduate level nurse (Nurse Educator students)
2. Board certified in area of practice/specialty for FNP or PNP students
3. Board certified in pediatrics or pediatric subspecialty for PNP students
4. Have a minimum of two years clinical experience
5. If a nurse practitioner, must have an earned MSN degree

Comprehensive Examination

All graduate nursing students must satisfactorily complete a terminal written and/or oral comprehensive examination. The terminal examination covering the content of the program of study will be administered in the final semester of study prior to graduation. A grade of *pass* or *fail* will be awarded for the semester grade.

Post certificate FNP students may be granted credit for the clinical comprehensive examination in their area of pre-program specialty, but should complete the remainder of the clinical comprehensive examination. All post master's and post certificate students who have written a thesis or research project are exempt from the research/theory portion of the comprehensive examination.

The written/computer generated comprehensive examination will be scheduled for all graduating students in their final semester of study. Usually two separate days will be scheduled; one for the theory and research component of the examination and one day for the clinical component. Time limits will be adhered to for all comprehensive exams. Any student who fails to achieve a passing grade on any section of the comprehensive examination will be provided one opportunity to retest in an oral examination at a date specified by faculty within seven days of receipt of the failed grade. If the student is not successful on the oral examination a grade of "fail" will be awarded for the semester in NUR 599 Comprehensive Examination. The student must enroll in NUR 599 in a subsequent semester.

If the student enrolls a second time in NUR 599, Comprehensive Examination, a date will be set for the exam by the graduate faculty. If the student completes the written comprehensive exam

with a score lower than 85%, that student will receive the earned grade “fail” for the semester and will be dismissed from the program.

Confidentiality Policy

Graduate nursing students of Grambling State University School of Nursing are held accountable and responsible for maintaining confidentiality of all individuals as outlined in the ANA Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice and the HIPPA Guidelines for protection of patient privacy information.

Credit By Transfer

A master’s level nursing student may transfer credit for up to one-third of the hours needed to complete the program from another university if the following criteria are met:

The institution must be regionally accredited.

A grade of “B” or better must be earned on all credits transferred.

The time limitations must be observed on all credits.

The credits must be acceptable to the program as determined by the graduate nursing faculty, the MSN Program Director and the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing. Transfer credits must comply with GSU graduate school policy regarding transfer credit.

The School of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Program will not accept transfer of credits earned in any clinical courses (NUR 540, NUR 542, NUR 544, NUR 546, NUR 548, nor in the pharmacotherapeutics course NUR 552); other courses will be considered based on evidence provided via course syllabi, official transcripts, and other course documents. The School of Nursing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program will not accept transfer of credits earned in any clinical courses (NUR 540, NUR 572, NUR 574, NUR 576, NUR 578, nor in the pharmacotherapeutics course NUR 552). Credits earned on a non-graduate basis or post-baccalaureate basis in another institution will not be accepted on any basis toward graduate degree requirements.

Transfer credits for the Nurse Educator program will include up to 1/3 of the total credit hours for all courses except NUR 540 Assessment, NUR 530 Educational Foundations, NUR 532 Curriculum Development, NUR 534 Teaching Methods, NUR 536 Practicum and NUR 552 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics.

Dress Code Policy

White lab coats are required over appropriate professional street clothes when entering the clinical area. White lab coats should be ¾ length coat that is pressed, clean, and in good repair. Scrub jackets are not acceptable in the place of lab coats. Street clothes worn to clinical areas should be congruent with the mode of dress by those professionals serving as clinical preceptors

(no blue jeans, no scrubs, no T shirts). Shoes should not have open toes. Students must present in a professional manner, with clean, pressed, professional clothing and personal grooming. Long hair must be secured in a manner that it does not fall forward. Men should maintain well groomed facial hair, if present.

Fingernails should be well groomed, not excessively long. If nail polish is worn, it should be a neutral color. If ears are pierced, only one pair of small earrings is allowed. Necklaces are not appropriate for clinical attire.

Perfume and gum chewing are not allowed in the clinical setting.

Students are to wear a GSU School of Nursing approved name pin which includes “RN” on the name tag and identifies the student as a Grambling Graduate Nurse Student. Name pins will be ordered during the first semester of course work, students are responsible for this expense.

Equipment Policy

Students are required to provide their own diagnostic equipment for clinical practice. Equipment required in the clinical for FNP students should include a double head stethoscope, reflex hammer, penlight, mm ruler, bandage scissors, insufflator bulb, otoscope/ophthalmoscope, tuning fork. PNP students will also be required to have a pediatric age appropriate stethoscope for their clinical practice experiences. Additionally students may find it helpful to have their own set of BP cuffs in various sizes, a pocket eye chart, and a small tape measurer. Diagnostic equipment must be taken to clinical each day the student is in attendance at the clinical site.

Grievance and Appeals Process

Grievances:

If a student has a grievance concerning grades, evaluations, or work load, the following process should be utilized:

1. see the professor with whom you have the problem, if the problem is still unresolved;
2. see your clinical advisor, if the problem is unresolved;
3. see the MSN Program Director, if the problem is unresolved;
4. see the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, if the problem is unresolved;
5. see the Dean of the College of Professional Studies, if the problem is unresolved;
6. see the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

If the problem remains unresolved, the student is advised to follow the appeals procedures for various types of appeals handled by the university as outlined in the Grambling State University Student Handbook.

All grievances should be submitted in writing, signed, and dated on the specific form available in the School of Nursing office. A copy of the form is included in the Appendix of this booklet. Students are to complete the form, including their proposed solutions to the problems, and deliver to the appropriate person.

Appeals Process

If a student is affected by the policy for admission, retention, or progression, a written appeal can be made one time for the specified condition. An appeal is to ensure that students are not deprived of due process. The appeal will be addressed by the Admissions and Academic Standard Committee in the School of Nursing. This committee has regularly scheduled meetings and will hear any appeal at their next scheduled meeting date. The appeal should be presented to the Chair of the Nursing Admissions and Academic Standards Committee at least two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student wishes to re-enroll in the Pre-Nursing/BSN/MSN program.

If the student would like to appeal a decision the following procedure must be utilized:

1. Meet with an Academic Advisor to discuss appeal and the appeal process
2. State the admission, retention, or progression policy that affects the student
3. State clearly what is being appealed

4. Include a copy of all transcripts
5. Provide a reason for the appeal
6. Provide information related to extenuating circumstances for the condition of non-progression.
7. Include external documentation supporting the circumstances
8. Provide a time frame (semester and year) for continuation in the nursing program
9. Provide a plan addressing a change in behavior that will promote success
10. State proposed solution to the problem in the appeal statement
11. State whether you wish to appear before the committee for the appeal
12. Fill out appeal process form.

All appeals should be submitted in writing, signed, and dated on the specified form available in the School of Nursing Office. Students are required to submit forms and supporting documents in a sealed envelope.

If the student desires to personally be present before the School of Nursing Admission and Academic Standards Committee, the student should present the request in writing along with forms and supporting documents.

A response regarding the decision of the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee will be provided within 14 days from the date of the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee meeting. If the appeal is granted, students must meet all requirements for admission to the professional component at the time of readmission. The student must adhere to all readmission procedures set forth in this document. Readmission is not automatic and depends on space available in the course.

Graduate School Forms Requirements

Each of the following forms are requirements from the School of Graduate Studies at various points in the student's enrollment. The School of Nursing Admission Coordinator for the MSN Program and the MSN Program Director will be available to assist in the completion of each of these forms. All forms must be typewritten and signed by appropriate faculty members.

Formal Admission To A Department

Each student who is admitted to pursue graduate studies in the graduate nursing program must have a Formal Admission To A Department filed with the School of Graduate Studies in the semester of the student's admission to the program. Graduate faculty will complete and file these forms for the students. Students are encouraged to check with graduate nursing faculty to assure that this requirement has been completed in a timely manner.

Plan of Study

Each student is required to complete and submit a Plan of Study to the School of Graduate Studies. This form should be completed after the Formal Admission To A Department has been submitted. The Plan of Study should be completed by the student and his/her faculty advisor during the second semester of course work. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a meeting with his/her faculty advisor to complete this requirement.

Admission To Candidacy Form

After the graduate nursing student has earned fifteen (15) hours of graduate work, an Admission To Candidacy Form must be filed with the School of Graduate Studies. Graduate faculty are responsible for completion and filing of this form. Graduate nursing students are encouraged to check with faculty to ascertain that the Admission To Candidacy Form has been filed in a timely manner.

Application For Graduate Degree

Graduate nursing students are required to submit this application for graduation the School of Graduate Studies in the first month of the regular semester in which he/she plans to graduate. Students are responsible to initiate a meeting with faculty advisors to complete and file the Application For Graduate Degree in a timely manner. Students are required to be enrolled in the current semester in which the graduation is to occur. Additional student requirements are:

1. Complete all departmental and graduate school requirements.
2. Meet the minimum semester hours required for the degree.
3. Not have more than six (6) semester hours of "C" grades.
4. Must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better.
5. Meet the time limitations for graduate course work (within six years after admission to the course of study).

Lab Policies

Computer Lab

The MSN Computer Lab is available for additional learning experiences for graduate nursing students. It offers experiential student oriented learning situations. Although some activities will be required and directed, students are encouraged to utilize the facilities creatively. No students are permitted in the computer lab during class times for their classroom. Students are expected to sign in and sign out upon entering/leaving the computer lab.

Specific computer lab use requirements are listed below:

1. No magnets in the computer lab.
2. No equipment is to be removed from the computer lab by students.
3. Reproduction of copyrighted software is a violation of federal law.
4. No manipulation of hardware is allowed.
5. Students must furnish their own work disks and take their data disks with them when they leave the computer lab area.
6. Equipment is arranged to allow adequate air flow for the computers. Equipment should not be shoved or pushed around or moved (exceptions made for keyboard and mouse).
7. Nothing should ever be put on top of equipment.
8. The computer lab is for nursing students, faculty and staff use only.

Learning Resource Center

A learning resource center is available for graduate nursing students to enhance learning with audio tapes and video tapes related to course content. Written materials are available for students in the form of journals, textbooks, and printed materials from pharmaceutical companies for further enrichment.

Clinical Lab

The School of Nursing provides a large clinical lab area complete with examination tables, patient beds, and a various assortment of equipment. Learning models are available for graduate nursing students to facilitate acquisition of advanced practice nursing skills. Students are encouraged to schedule learning opportunities in the lab with their faculty advisor. There is a simulation lab located on the first floor of the School of Nursing which may be utilized during specific dates for additional learning opportunities. MSN students will follow all rules and guidelines expected while in attendance in the simulation lab setting.

In all of the above lab facilities, students are reminded that no food or drink items are permitted. Use of lab facilities requires cooperation on the part of the graduate student to keep lab areas clean and available for future student use.

Retention and Progression Requirements

1. **To progress** in the Graduate Nursing Program, a grade of “A” or “B” must be earned in all clinical courses (NUR 540, NUR 542, NUR 544, NUR 546, and NUR 548; NUR 572, NUR 574, NUR 576, and NUR 578).
For Nurse Educators a grade of “A” or “B” must be earned in all nurse educator courses (NUR 530, NUR 532, NUR 534, NUR 535, NUR 536 and NUR 540).
2. **Enrollment in a nursing course** is defined as completion of any unit examination, quiz, or assignment in that course. A “W” grade in a course constitutes an enrollment in that course.
3. **Failure** is defined as achievement of a grade of “C”, “D”, or “F” in a clinical course; and if the student withdraws from the course with a failing grade at the time of withdrawal.
4. **Dismissal from the nursing program will occur when a student has:**
 - a. Failed the second enrollment of the same clinical course in the major area.
 - b. Failed a second clinical course in the major area (FNP, PNP, Nurse Educator)
5. A student may submit a written petition to the School of Nursing graduate faculty requesting permission to repeat a clinical course in which a grade of “C” was earned. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the graduate nursing faculty on a space available basis. A revised Plan of Study form must be completed with the advisor. This form is available on the School of Graduate Studies web site. A sample is also located in the Appendix of this document.
 - a. The graduate nursing student who earns a grade of “C” in a clinical course may petition for readmission to that course at the next available time of that class offering, if space is available.
 - b. Prior to readmission in the unsuccessful clinical course, the graduate nursing student must demonstrate retention of previously covered course content by successful completion of a written competency examination and a skills performance competency examination. The student must enroll in an independent study course and earn a grade of “B” or higher to demonstrate retention of previously learned content. This independent study course must be completed the semester prior to re-entering the clinical course that is being repeated. Any subsequent failure to progress will result in dismissal from the graduate nursing program. Students **may only enroll in NUR 550 Independent Study two (2) times** during their enrollment in the graduate nursing program.
 - c. A student who has failed to progress in the clinical course sequence may elect to continue with non-clinical courses, with the permission of his/her advisor and the MSN Program Director, if they are in good academic standing with the University. Enrollment in certain non-clinical courses would not be permitted, if there is a co-requisite attached to the admission criteria for that course, i. e. NUR 547 NP: Role II.
6. Students who are dismissed from the School of Nursing MSN Program are not eligible for readmission.

7. A student who is dismissed from the program may elect to submit a written appeal to the School of Nursing Admissions and Academic Standards Committee following the written appeal process. Readmission for a successful appeal is on a space available basis. Students must follow the Appeals Policy for the School of Nursing (located in this document under Grievance and Appeals, p. 27, MSN Student Handbook, 2013).
8. Students may have a grade of “C” in any non-clinical course and still progress in the program. A student who accumulates more than six (6) semester hours of “C” grades will be suspended from the University (GSU Catalog 2011-2013).
9. No grade below a “C” is acceptable in any graduate course. A student with a grade of “D” or “F” in any graduate nursing course is automatically dropped from the program and must petition the Graduate Council in writing through the School of Nursing for consideration for re-admission. A student cannot graduate with less than a 3.0 GPA.

Probation/Suspension/Dismissal Policy

Any graduate nursing student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on probation by the University. A student who is readmitted on probation may remove himself from such status by raising his/her cumulative GPA to 3.0 or better. Failure to make a semester average of 3.0 or better while on probation will result in dismissal.

Readmission/Returning Students

Graduate nursing students who have been non-enrolled in a clinical course for more than one semester due to either failure to progress or personal reasons, must submit a written petition for readmission to the program. Readmission is not automatic and depends on space availability.

Admission will be granted on a space available basis, if all other admission criteria are maintained. Returning or readmitted students who have had an interrupted nursing course sequence for any reason for a period of one semester or longer, will be required to validate retention of previously covered course content by successful completion of a written competency examination and a skills performance competency examination. This competency exam must be completed the semester prior to readmission/return to the repeated course through enrollment in an independent study course (NUR 550). Students **may only enroll in NUR 550 Independent Study two (2) times** during their enrollment in the graduate nursing program. The student must submit a Revised Plan of Study which outlines the changes made in the plan of study on file.

Per Graduate School requirements, students must complete the requirements for the master’s degree within six years after admission to a degree program, if they are full time; part time students may complete within eight years. Family Nurse Practitioner students and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner students are also bound to time constraints issued by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, wherein the courses for advanced pathophysiology and advanced pharmacotherapeutics must be taken within three years of application for their prescriptive authority licensure status post graduation.

Student Health and Welfare

The School of Nursing complies with policies set forth by the University in providing health care. (See the university catalog). All students must comply with university policies relating to health. Each student participates in an accident and sickness insurance plan that is designed especially for students at Grambling State University. Information material can be procured at the Foster Johnson Infirmary.

Poor health may be reflected in clinical and/or classroom performance. It is recommended that students maintain optimum sleeping and eating habits. Maintenance of standard weight for height is desirable. Frequent absenteeism due to illness in clinical courses can result in failure or an incomplete. Where frequent illness occurs, a doctor's statement should be filed with the program director.

All pregnant students must notify the program director of the pregnancy and due date for delivery. It is advisable to have a physician's statement indicating due date and the student's physical capacity to continue her course of study.

Student Representation

The graduate nursing faculty believes in student representation and participation in matters concerning the School of Nursing MSN program. Representatives from each class are selected by their peers to serve as a member of graduate nursing faculty committees.

Students at large are asked for frequent input into matters concerning the program. Input is welcomed via direct personal communication with faculty, internet interchanges, course evaluation forms, and faculty evaluation forms. Frequently faculty hold informal general meetings with student groups during class days to solicit input regarding program matters. Students may request a general meeting at any point in time that a matter needs to be addressed with faculty and students. Graduate nursing faculty encourage open communication and sharing of ideas and concerns regarding the program.

Students With Disabilities Policy

Any student with a disability who desires admission to the School of Nursing graduate program will meet individually with the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing and the MSN Program Director to determine the physical and mental capability of the student to engage in primary health care delivery. Reasonable accommodations will be made on an individual basis; however, the applicant must be able to perform in an independent manner. Graduate nursing students in the Family Nurse Practitioner Option are expected to demonstrate ability to function effectively in a clinical setting which requires communication skills, manual dexterity skills, visual and hearing ability, and certain mobility requirements. Examples of competency requirements are listed below, but do not comprise an exhaustive list.

COMPETENCY**BEHAVIORAL EXAMPLE****MENTAL/EMOTIONAL**

Possesses the mental and emotional ability to adapt to the environment, function in everyday activities, and cope with stressors

demonstrates behaviors appropriate to the situation, uses appropriate coping strategies

SENSORY

Possesses the ability to assess and/or evaluate client responses and to perform nursing interventions safely and accurately

A. Visual

1. Has normal or corrected vision within the range of 20/20 to 20/80

observes patient responses, visualizes the appearance of wounds, recognizes changes in skin color, color of drainage, distinguishes

2. Distinguishes color shades and or changes

size/shape of lesions

B. Auditory

Has normal or corrected hearing ability within the 0-45 decibel range

hears alarms, auscultatory sounds

C. Tactile

Possesses in at least on hand the ability to perceive temperature changes and pulsations and to differentiate different structures and textures

performs functions of physical assessment

MOTOR

Possesses four (4) functional limbs (normal or artificial) that allows the student to perform abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small places; gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care

moves among patient rooms and treatment areas, performs CPR

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Possesses communication abilities sufficient for appropriate and effective interaction with others in oral and written form | explains treatment interventions and initiates health teaching, documents nursing actions and patient responses |
| B. Possesses interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact appropriately and effectively with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of backgrounds | establishes rapport with patients, families, and colleagues |

CRITICAL THINKING

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Possesses critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment | identifies cause and effect relationships, develops plan of care for clients |
| B. Applies principles of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Deals with several abstract and concrete variables. | |

Substance Abuse Policy

The possession or use of drugs (without a valid medical prescription) controlled by the Federal Government is prohibited. The following procedure will be followed for any graduate nursing student in the clinical setting:

1. If a student reports to clinical under the influence of drugs/alcohol, he/she will not be allowed to remain in the clinical setting that day and the matter will be referred to the MSN Program Director for further evaluation. If the student insists he/she is not impaired, he/she has the option of having a drug/alcohol screen done at his/her expense.
2. The MSN Program Director will tell the student when he/she may return to clinical, if the student has been asked to leave the clinical setting due to being under the influence of drugs/alcohol.
3. If deemed necessary by the MSN Program Director and other clinical faculty,

the student will be referred to a certified counselor for evaluation. Further action will depend on the recommendation of the counselor. All financial incurrence will be the responsibility of the student.

If the certified counselor feels treatment is necessary, the student may have the option of returning to the nursing program upon completion of treatment. The student must provide the graduate nursing program with documentation of treatment compliance and completion. A drug/alcohol screening must be performed with negative results within one week of returning to clinical.

If the student does not comply with the above recommendations, he/she will be referred to the MSN Program Director for further action.

The student may be referred to the Recovering Nurse Program sponsored by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing if applicable. Appropriate notification will be made by the School of Nursing to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. Detailed documentation of the incident(s) need to be written by the clinical faculty member and signed by the student, indicating that it has been read by the student. The documentation(s) will be placed in the student's folder. The Associate Dean of the School of Nursing will be apprised of any student behaviors related to abuse of drugs/alcohol. Final determination of student status will be determined by the Associate Dean.

Textbooks

At the beginning of the first and second semester, students are provided with a book list of required and recommended textbooks which are available in the campus book store. Although the textbook list is expensive, all texts have been carefully selected for their use in classroom learning activities as well as future potential as advanced practice references after graduation. Students are required to purchase all textbooks included on the required list when the list is provided.

Students will find it advantageous to bring several key textbooks to the clinical sites for references while engaged in clinical activities. Keep in mind the space available in the clinical site. Students may elect to bring a PDA/electronic book on iPhone/iPad with textbook software to the clinical site.

A large selection of professional journals have been donated to the program from area physician offices for student use. These are primarily housed in the graduate class rooms. Students are encouraged to utilize these journals as needed for references. If you borrow a journal for review, please return it before the end of the semester, and place the journal in its appropriate place on the shelf.

Thesis and Research Project Policy

Graduate nursing students must complete a thesis or a research project during their course of work toward the Master of Science in Nursing degree. See The School of Nursing's Research Project and Thesis Guide (2010) for specific requirements of the thesis or research project. Also see the Grambling State University's Guideline for Preparing Research Proposals, Master's Projects and Theses, and Doctoral Dissertations (2004) for university specifications. Copies of each of these may be obtained from graduate nursing faculty.

Transportation Policy

Throughout the program, graduate nursing students must travel to various rural agencies and clinical sites for clinical assignments. Students are responsible for their own transportation and subsequent expenses.

Students are required to follow university rules for parking and maintaining a vehicle on campus.

Universal Precautions Policy

Hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections are significant health risks for health care workers in the United States especially in those areas exposed to needle-sticks and splashed blood/body fluids. It is mandatory that graduate nursing students take efforts to prevent exposure to these diseases by consistent use of Universal Precautions in the clinical settings. Students are expected to submit proper documentation that all required immunizations are current each year of enrollment in the program.

Make-up Tests

If a student is absent from a scheduled examination in any graduate course, and the absence is excused by faculty, the student will need to meet with faculty to make alternative plans to schedule a make up examination to satisfy the grade for the missed examination. Students are expected to notify faculty BEFORE the examination time if an excused absence is to occur. Examples of an excused absence: death of an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister, spouse, child); student in the hospital as a patient for an acute illness; student's child in the hospital for an acute, unplanned illness. Unexcused absences will be awarded a grade of "0" for that missed examination.

Review Course

Nurse practitioners students are required to attend a certification review course in the final semester of study. This course is arranged by the faculty through an independent company. Students are responsible for their own registration and travel expenses for this course.

Appendix
Grambling State University School of Nursing
Family Nurse Practitioner Option/MSN
Curriculum Plan

Fall Semester (16 weeks)	Credit Hours	Clinical Hrs/Wk
NUR 501 Advanced Nursing Science Theory	3	
NUR 505 Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
NUR 540 NP: Advanced Health Assessment	3	3
NUR 541 NP: Role I	<u>1</u>	1.5
Total	10	56 hr/semester 16 lab hrs
Spring Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 542 NP: Advanced Health Management I	4	6
NUR 503 Advanced Nursing Research	3	
NUR 552 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	<u>3</u>	
Total	10	96 hr/semester
Summer Semester (12 weeks)		
NUR 544 NP: Advanced Health Management II	4	6
NUR 553 Health Policy for Families & Communities	<u>3</u>	0.5
Total	7	84 hr/semester
Fall Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 546 NP: Advanced Health Management III	4	12
NUR 547 NP: Role II	1	
NUR 580 Research Project	3	
or		
NUR 590 Thesis Option	<u>3</u>	
Total	8	192 hr/semester
Spring Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 548 NP: Advanced Health Management IV	5	15
NUR 590 Thesis Option or Elective	3	
NUR 599 Comprehensive Examination	<u>0</u>	
Total	8	240 hr/semester
Total for Program	43	668 hours

**Grambling State University School of Nursing
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Option/MSN
Curriculum Plan**

Fall Semester (16 weeks)	Credit Hours	Clinical Hrs/Wk
NUR 501 Advanced Nursing Science Theory	3	
NUR 505 Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
NUR 540 NP: Advanced Health Assessment	3	3
NUR 541 NP: Role I	<u>1</u>	
Total	10	56 hr/semester 16 lab
Spring Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 572 PNP: Advanced Health Management I	4	6
NUR 503 Advanced Nursing Research	3	
NUR 552 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	<u>3</u>	
Total	10	96 hr/semester
Summer Semester (12 weeks)		
NUR 574 PNP: Advanced Health Management II	4	6
NUR 553 Health Policy for Families & Communities	<u>3</u>	0.5
Total	7	84 hr/semester
Fall Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 576 NP: Advanced Health Management III	4	12
NUR 547 NP: Role II	1	
NUR 580 Research Project	3	
or		
NUR 590 Thesis Option	<u>3</u>	
Total	8	192 hr/semester
Spring Semester (16 weeks)		
NUR 578 NP: Advanced Health Management IV	5	15
NUR 590 Thesis Option or Elective	3	
NUR 599 Comprehensive Examination	<u>0</u>	
Total	8	240 hr/semester
Total for Program	43	668 hours

**Grambling State University
School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Program**

Post Master's Certificate FNP Curriculum Plan

Fall Semester

NUR 505 Advanced Pathophysiology*	3
NUR 540 NP: Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 541 NP: Role I	<u>1</u>
Total	7

Spring Semester

NUR 542 NP: Advanced Health Management I	4
NUR 552 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	<u>3</u>
Total	7

Summer Semester

NUR 544 NP: Advanced Health Management II	4
NUR 553 Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
Total	7

Fall Semester

NUR 546 NP: Advanced Health Management III	4
NUR 547 NP: Role II	<u>1</u>
Total	5

Spring Semester

NUR 548 NP: Advanced Health Management IV	5
NUR 599 Comprehensive Examination	<u>0</u>
Total	5

Grand Total 31

*If earned credit in pathophysiology is older than 5 years, students will be required to audit NUR 505

**Grambling State University
School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Program**

**Post Certification Family Nurse Practitioner Programs
“Fast Tracks”**

Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) to Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Course		Credit Hours
NUR 544	NP: Advanced Health Management II	4
NUR 553	Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
NUR 546	NP: Advanced Health Management III	4
NUR 548	NP: Advanced Health Management IV	<u>5</u>
Total		16

Women’s Health Practitioner (WHNP) to Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Course		Credit Hours
NUR 542	NP: Advanced Health Management I	4
NUR 553	Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
NUR 546	NP: Advanced Health Management III	4
NUR 548	NP: Advanced Health Management IV	<u>5</u>
Total		16

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) to Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Course		Credit Hours
NUR 542	NP: Advanced Health Management I	4
NUR 544	NP: Advanced Health Management II	4
NUR 553	Health Policy for Families & Communities	3
NUR 548	NP: Advanced Health Management IV	5
Total		16

**Grambling State University
School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Program**

**Nurse Educator Option
Clinical Focus: Adult/Geriatric**

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
NUR 501	Advanced Nursing Science Theory	3
NUR 505	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 540	Advanced Health Assessment	3
Total		9
Spring Semester		
NUR 503	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NUR 530	Educational Foundations for Nurse Educators	3
NUR 535	Nurse Educator Role	1
NUR 552	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	<u>3</u>
Total		10
Summer Semester		
NUR 507	Issues and Trends in Nursing	<u>2</u>
NUR 532	Curriculum Development	3
Total		5
Fall Semester		
NUR 590	Thesis	3
NUR 534	Teaching Methodologies	3
NUR 514	Adult Health I	<u>4</u>
Total		10
Spring Semester		
NUR 516	Adult Health II	4
NUR 536	Practicum	3
NUR 590	Thesis	3
NUR 599	Comprehensive Examination	<u>0</u>
Total		10
		Total 44

Prerequisite Writing Course NUR 500 3

**Grambling State University
School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Program**

**Nurse Educator Option
Clinical Focus: Maternal Child**

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
NUR 501	Advanced Nursing Science Theory	3
NUR 505	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 540	Advanced Health Assessment	3
Total		9
Spring Semester		
NUR 503	Advanced Nursing Research	<u>3</u>
NUR 530	Educational Foundations	3
NUR 535	Nurse Educator Role	1
NUR 552	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
Total		10
Summer Semester		
NUR 507	Issues and Trends in Nursing	<u>2</u>
NUR 532	Curriculum Development	3
Total		5
Fall Semester		
NUR 510	Women's Health Topics	4
NUR 534	Teaching Methodologies	3
NUR 590	Thesis	<u>3</u>
Total		10
Spring Semester		
NUR 512	Pediatric Health Topics	4
NUR 536	Practicum in Nursing Education	3
NUR 590	Thesis	3
NUR 599	Comprehensive Examination	<u>0</u>
Total		10
		Total 44
Prerequisite Writing Course NUR 500		3

Catalog Descriptions for Master of Science in Nursing Degree

NUR 500 Writing Seminar for Professional Nurses

An introduction to writing skills for nurses at the graduate school level. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive, analytical, and evaluative thinking and writing skills. This is a preparatory course for writing required in nursing papers submitted for publication, research projects, and thesis.

NUR 501 Advanced Nursing Science Theory

Explores philosophical and theoretical foundations of nursing. Focuses on analysis of selected theories and concepts. 3 Hrs. Prerequisites: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program.

NUR 503 Advanced Research

Introduction to the concepts and process of research. Emphasis is placed on data analysis, critique, utilization, as well as issues of reliability and validity of measurement, the ethics of human inquiry, and the dissemination of findings. 3 Hr. Prerequisites: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program.

NUR 505 Advanced Pathophysiology

Advanced human pathophysiological concepts in systems such as cardiovascular, pulmonary, neurologic, renal, and digestive. Emphasis on mechanisms producing clinical manifestations for selected disease syndromes. 3 Hrs. Prerequisites: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program.

NUR 507 Issues and Trends in Nursing Practice

Explores and evaluates contemporary issues and trends relevant to nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on issues and trends related to roles of the professional nurse prepared at the master's level with exploration of current changes in the health care system. Prerequisite: Admission the School of Nursing Graduate Program.

NUR 510 Women's Health

Analysis of theoretical foundations and clinical concepts necessary for advanced nursing practice with female clients at risk for experiencing alterations in physiologic health. Includes directed field study time in a selected health care area. Prerequisite: NUR 505

NUR 512 Pediatric Health

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Emphasis on prevention, monitoring, and restoring health for pediatric clients. Clinical experiences occur in various health care settings with approved preceptor. Prerequisite: NUR 505.

NUR 514 Adult Health I

Analysis of theoretical foundation and clinical concepts necessary for advanced nursing practice of adult and geriatric clients. Includes directed field study time in a selected health care area. Prerequisite: NUR 505.

NUR 516 Adult Health II

Emphasis on prevention, monitoring, and restoring health for adult and geriatric clients. Clinical experiences occur in various health care settings with an approved preceptor. Prerequisite: NUR 505.

NUR 530 Educational Foundations for Nurse Educators

This course explores the theoretical foundations of education with particular emphasis on the education of nursing students. Lectures, seminars, case studies, and simulations are planned to provide the student with theories, methods, and issues relevant to nursing education. Prerequisite: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program.

NUR 532 Curriculum Development for Nurse Educators

The focus of this seminar course is the exploration of curricular process within nursing education and its application to a variety of programs in nursing education. Seminar focuses on application of curriculum theory to curriculum formation, revision, to study and the application of conceptual frameworks within the curriculum. Prerequisite: NUR 530.

NUR 534 Teaching Methodologies in Nursing

Designed to provide teachers with skills and competencies based on research findings on effective teaching and instruction related to promotion of student academic achievement. Includes identifying, developing, and practicing instructional variables that effect teacher performance and student learning tasks. Prerequisite: NUR 530.

NUR 535 Nurse Educator Role

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This course is designed to provide an introduction to the role of the nurse educator in a variety of health care settings, including higher educational settings and various health care settings as nursing educational coordinator roles. The historical perspectives of nursing education are explored, as well as current and future practice trends. Prerequisite: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program. Corequisite: NUR 530.

NUR 540 NP: Advanced Health Assessment

This course is designed to provide students with the theoretical and clinical basis for advanced practice in the primary care of pediatric, adult, and geriatric clients. Emphasis is placed on the prevention of illness and detection of acute and chronic illness for family populations. Clinical experiences occur in primary and long term care settings. 3 hr. Two hours lecture, one hour clinical. Prerequisites: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program

NUR 541 Nurse Practitioner Role I

Introduction to the legal and ethical role of the family nurse practitioner. Includes philosophy, objectives, and conceptual framework of practice, as well as analysis of current trends in the role of the nurse practitioner. 1 Hr. Prerequisite: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program

NUR 542 NP: Advanced Health Management I

Building on NUR 540, students are enabled to make appropriate clinical judgments in the health care management for adult and geriatric clients. Emphasis is on monitoring, preventing, and restoring health for populations in rural and urban settings. Clinical experiences occur in primary health care settings with approved preceptors. 4 Hr. Two hours lecture, two hours clinical. Prerequisite: NUR 540

NUR 544 NP: Advanced Health Management II

Building on NUR 542, this course enables students to make appropriate clinical judgments in the health care management of women. Clinical experiences occur in primary health care settings with approved preceptors. 4 Hr Two hours lecture, two hours clinical. Prerequisite: NUR 542

NUR 546 NP: Advanced Health Management III

A continuation of NUR 544 with emphasis on role identification of the family nurse practitioner in providing health care management for infants and children. Clinical experiences occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in primary health care settings. 6 Hr. Two hours lecture, four hours clinical. Prerequisite: NUR 544

NUR 547 NP: Role II

Evaluation of the roles of the advanced clinician with development of strategies for transition to post graduate practice environments. 1 Hr. Prerequisite: NUR 546

NUR 548 NP: Advanced Health Management IV

A continuation of NUR 546 with emphasis on the role acquisition of the family nurse practitioner in providing health care for clients of various ages across the life span. The focus of the student in this course includes monitoring and evaluation of quality health care practice, as well as integration of organizational systems and management guidelines in the primary care of individuals. Clinical experiences provide the student with the opportunity to demonstrate assimilation of the dimensions of advocate, case manager, and leader. 7 Hr. Two hours lecture, five hours clinical. Prerequisite: NUR 546

NUR 552 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics

A study of the pharmacodynamics and pharmacotherapeutics of drugs used in the management of acute and chronic medical conditions. Alternative drug therapies will be appraised. 3 Hr. Prerequisite: NUR 505

NUR 553 Health Policy for Families & Communities

This course is designed to explore content related to current health care policy and its impact on family dynamics and community and rural health care resources. Health care delivery systems, health economics, and health policy are evaluated in regards to their impact on the family unit and the rural and underserved communities. Students engage in community and family assessments, agency visits, and review of current literature on the topic. 3 Hr. Prerequisite: NUR 503

NUR 550 Independent Study

An independent study which allows an individual an opportunity to secure additional practice or experience to refine clinical practice abilities or gain additional nurse content. 1, 2, or 3 Hr. Prerequisite: Admission to the School of Nursing Graduate Program and advisor approval.

NUR 572 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Advanced Health Management I 4

A continuation of NUR 540 with emphasis on role identification of the pediatric nurse practitioner in providing health care promotion and supervision for children from birth through adolescence. Students continue to enhance the professional role competencies of the advanced nurse practitioner and refine skills in the management of health promotion and supervision. Clinical experiences occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in pediatric and primary health care settings. 4 Semester hours. Two hours lecture, two hours clinical.

NUR 574 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Advanced Health Management II 4

A continuation of NUR 572 with emphasis on role identification of the pediatric nurse practitioner in understanding principles of growth and development across the lifespan and to provide health care to children from birth through adolescence. Students continue to enhance the professional role competencies of the advanced nurse practitioner and refine skills in the management of health promotion and supervision. Clinical experiences occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in pediatric and primary health care settings. 4 Semester hours. Two hours lecture, two hours clinical.

NUR 576 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Advanced Health Management III 6

A continuation of NUR 574 with emphasis on role identification of the pediatric nurse practitioner in providing health care management of children with acute and common illnesses. Students continue to enhance the professional role competencies of the advanced nurse practitioner and refine skills in the management of client wellness and illness states. Clinical experiences occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in pediatric and primary health care settings. 6 Semester hours - Two hours lecture, four hours clinical.

NUR 578 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Advanced Health Management IV 7

A continuation of NUR 576 with emphasis on role identification of the pediatric nurse practitioner in providing health care management to children with chronic illness. Students continue to enhance the professional role competencies of the advanced nurse practitioner and refine skills in the management of client wellness and illness states. Clinical experiences occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in pediatric and primary health care settings. 7 Semester hours. Two hours lecture, five hours clinical.

NUR 580 Research Project

Integration of theoretical and empirical knowledge in the development of a research project related to rural or urban health care needs for the nurse practitioner. 3 Hr. Prerequisite: NUR 503

NUR 590 Thesis

Integration of theoretical and empirical knowledge in the development of a thesis. Course may be continued once for credit. 3 Hr. Prerequisite: NUR 503.

NUR 599 Comprehensive Examination

Written examination which encompasses integration of knowledge base of master's level of graduate nursing education.

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SCHOOL OF NURSING
Grievance/Problem/ Reactive Comment FORM

Complete and place in sealed envelope. Please deliver form to appropriate person.

FROM: _____ DATE :_____

COURSE: _____ BSN Nursing _____

MSN Nursing _____

Grievance/Problem/Reactive comment (Use the back of this page if additional space is needed).

Proposed solutions (List three solutions by priority of importance...one being most important, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

	Approved/Disapproved		Option	Date	Comments
Faculty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Level Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Vice President of Academic Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

