



Yolanda Arriola

College of Nursing

Student Handbook

2026 – 2027

6101 Montana Ave.

El Paso, TX 79925

(915) 778-4001



***“Meeting the healthcare needs of a
diversely populated community through the
development of qualified nursing
professionals”***

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change by the nursing program faculty and do not constitute an irrevocable contract between any applicant or student and the program. The nursing programs are not responsible for any misrepresentation of its requirements or provisions that might arise as a result of errors occurring in the preparation of this handbook.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Table of Contents

Welcome to the Nursing Program	10
Letter from the Dean of Nursing	11
Administrative Personnel	12
College of Nursing Mission	13
Philosophy.....	13
Advisory Board	15
Article I. Associates Degree Program Description	15
Section 1.01 <i>Accreditation</i>	16
Section 1.02 <i>ADMISSION</i>	17
Article II. Curriculum	17
Section 2.01 <i>Degree Plan</i>	18
Article III. Conceptual Framework.....	19
Section 3.01 <i>First Concept</i>	19
Section 3.02 <i>Second Concept</i>	20
Section 3.03 <i>Third Concept</i>	20
Article IV. The Roy Adaptation Model.....	21
Article V. The Nursing Process	21
Section 5.01 <i>Member of the Profession</i>	22
Section 5.02 <i>Provider of Patient Centered Care</i>	22
Section 5.03 <i>Patient Safety Advocate</i>	22
Section 5.04 <i>Member of the Health Care Team</i>	22
Section 5.05 <i>Individual</i>	23
Section 5.06 <i>Learning</i>	23
Section 5.07 <i>Nursing Education</i>	23
Section 5.08 <i>ADN Graduate</i>	23
Section 5.09 <i>Nursing Program Education Outcomes</i>	24
Section 5.10 <i>Member of the Profession</i>	24
Section 5.11 <i>Provider of Patient Centered Care</i>	24
Section 5.12 <i>Patient Safety Advocate</i>	25
Section 5.13 <i>Member of the Health Care Team</i>	25
Article VI. Curriculum Definitions.....	26

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Article VII. Program Information	29
Section 7.01 <i>Criminal Background Checks</i>	29
Section 7.02 <i>Castle Branch</i>	29
Section 7.03 <i>Immunizations.....</i>	29
Section 7.04 <i>Substance Abuse and Drug Testing.....</i>	30
Section 7.05 <i>Health Insurance</i>	30
Section 7.06 <i>Flu Vaccine</i>	31
Section 7.07 <i>TB Testing and CPR Requirements</i>	31
Section 7.08 <i>Professional Liability Insurance</i>	31
Section 7.09 <i>Pregnancy.....</i>	31
Section 7.10 <i>Medical Clearance.....</i>	32
Section 7.11 <i>Communicable Disease</i>	32
Section 7.12 <i>Student Resource Services.....</i>	32
Section 7.13 <i>Financial Aid</i>	32
Section 7.14 <i>Workplace Hazards</i>	32
Section 7.15 <i>Freedom from Harassment</i>	33
Section 7.16 <i>Clinical Preparation</i>	33
Article VIII. Critical Skill Performance Mastery	33
Section 8.01 <i>1ST UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION</i>	33
Section 8.02 <i>2ND UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION</i>	34
Section 8.03 <i>3RD UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION</i>	34
Article IX. Technical Standards	34
Section 9.01 <i>Motor Skills.....</i>	35
Section 9.02 <i>Sensory/Observation.....</i>	35
Section 9.03 <i>Communication</i>	36
Section 9.04 <i>Cognitive</i>	36
Section 9.05 <i>Behavioral/Emotional</i>	36
Section 9.06 <i>Professional Conduct.....</i>	36
Section 9.07 <i>Ethical Behavior</i>	37
Article X. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Federal Law	38
Section 10.01 <i>Clinical Experience.....</i>	38
Section 10.02 <i>Site Placement.....</i>	38

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 10.03	<i>Transportation</i>	39
Section 10.04	<i>Hospital Visitation</i>	39
Article XI.	Academic and Clinical Information	39
Section 11.01	<i>Classroom Attendance</i>	39
Section 11.02	<i>Clinical Attendance</i>	40
Section 11.03	<i>Orientation</i>	40
Section 11.04	<i>Punctuality</i>	40
Section 11.05	<i>Test Administration/ Remediation and Make-up</i>	41
Section 11.06	<i>Tardiness</i>	41
Section 11.07	<i>Committee Representation</i>	41
Section 11.08	<i>Course/Faculty Evaluation</i>	41
Section 11.09	<i>Outside Employment</i>	41
Section 11.10	<i>Textbooks</i>	42
Section 11.11	<i>Cell Phones</i>	42
Section 11.12	<i>Instructional Methods</i>	42
Article XII.	Grading	42
Section 12.01	<i>Academic Standing</i>	43
Section 12.02	<i>Academic Advisement</i>	44
Section 12.03	<i>Tutoring</i>	44
Section 12.04	<i>Remediation</i>	44
Section 12.05	<i>Graduation Requirements</i>	44
Section 12.06	<i>Pre-Clinical Clearance Exam Proficiency</i>	45
Section 12.07	<i>Clinical Evaluations of Student Performance</i>	45
Section 12.08	<i>Withdrawal</i>	46
Section 12.09	<i>Readmission</i>	46
Section 12.10	<i>ADN Examination Eligibility</i>	47
Section 12.11	<i>Records</i>	47
Section 12.12	<i>Social Media</i>	48
Section 12.13	<i>Students are strictly prohibited from:</i>	48
Article XIII.	Testing	48
Section 13.01	<i>Computer Testing and Written Examinations</i>	49
Section 13.02	<i>Missed Exams</i>	49

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Article XIV.	Academic Integrity and Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence	49
Article XV.	Program Progression	50
Article XVI.	Student Discipline	50
Section 16.01	<i>Expectations</i>	50
Section 16.02	<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	50
Section 16.03	<i>Substance Abuse</i>	51
Section 16.04	<i>Dismissal.....</i>	51
Article XVII.	HESI.....	51
Article XVIII.	NCLEX.....	52
Article XIX.	Student Safety, Health, and Welfare	53
Section 19.01	<i>Nursing/Patient Safety.....</i>	53
Section 19.02	<i>Student Rights Non-discrimination</i>	53
Section 19.03	<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>	53
Section 19.04	<i>Accommodating Students with Disabilities.....</i>	53
Section 19.05	<i>Grade Appeals.....</i>	54
Section 19.06	<i>Grievance Procedure</i>	55
Section 19.07	<i>Student Complaints</i>	56
Article XX.	Professionalism.....	57
Section 20.01	<i>Expectations</i>	57
Section 20.02	<i>Appearance</i>	58
Section 20.03	<i>Official Uniform.....</i>	58
Section 20.04	<i>Grooming</i>	58
Section 20.05	<i>Language.....</i>	59
Article XXI.	Other Policies.....	59
Section 21.01	<i>Guests.....</i>	59
Section 21.02	<i>Food, Drink, *Tobacco.....</i>	59
Section 21.03	<i>Cell Phones</i>	60
Section 21.04	<i>Breaks/Vacation/Leaves</i>	60
Section 21.05	<i>Access to Program Resources.....</i>	60
Article XXII.	RN to BSN Program	60
Section 22.01	<i>Program Description</i>	60
Section 22.02	<i>Accreditation</i>	61

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 22.03	<i>Admission Criteria and Selection Process for Admission of Students RN to BSN</i>	61
Section 22.04	<i>RN to BSN Degree Plan</i>	62
Section 22.05	<i>Program Outcomes</i>	62
Section 22.06	<i>Grading</i>	63
Section 22.07	<i>Student Responsibility</i>	64
(a)	Medical Clearance	64
(b)	Freedom of Harassment	64
(c)	Academic Standing.....	65
(d)	Academic Advisement.....	65
(e)	Tutoring.....	65
(f)	Withdrawal	65
(g)	Graduation Requirements	66
Section 22.08	<i>Committee Representation</i>	66
Section 22.09	<i>Course/Faculty Evaluation</i>	66
Section 22.10	<i>Textbooks</i>	66
Section 22.11	<i>Readmission</i>	66
Section 22.12	<i>Records</i>	67
Section 22.13	<i>Social Media</i>	68
Section 22.14	<i>Academic Integrity and Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence</i>	69
Section 22.15	<i>Program Progression</i>	69
Article XXIII.	Student Discipline	69
Section 23.01	<i>Expectations</i>	69
Section 23.02	<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	70
Section 23.03	<i>Dismissal</i>	70
Section 23.04	<i>Student Safety, Health, and Welfare</i>	70
Section 23.05	<i>Nursing/Patient Safety</i>	71
Article XXIV.	Student Rights	71
Section 24.01	<i>Non-discrimination</i>	71
Section 24.02	<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>	71
Section 24.03	<i>HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Federal Law</i>	72
Section 24.04	<i>Grade Appeals</i>	73
Section 24.05	<i>Grievance Procedure</i>	73

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 24.06	<i>Student Complaints</i>	75
Article XXV.	Professionalism	75
Section 25.01	<i>Expectations</i>	75
Section 25.02	<i>Breaks/Vacation/Leaves</i>	76
Section 25.03	<i>Access to Program Resources</i>	76
Article XXVI.	MSN Program	77
Section 26.01	<i>Program Description</i>	77
Section 26.02	<i>Accreditation</i>	77
Section 26.03	<i>Admission Criteria and Selection Process for Admission of Students</i>	77
Article XXVII.	MSN Degree Plan	78
Section 27.01	<i>Program Outcomes</i>	79
Article XXVIII.	Grading	80
Article XXIX.	Student Responsibility	81
Section 29.01	<i>Medical Clearance</i>	81
Section 29.02	<i>Freedom of Harassment</i>	81
Section 29.03	<i>Academic Standing</i>	81
Section 29.04	<i>Academic Advisement</i>	82
Section 29.05	<i>Tutoring</i>	82
Section 29.06	<i>Withdrawal</i>	82
Section 29.07	<i>Graduation Requirements</i>	82
Section 29.08	<i>Committee Representation</i>	82
Section 29.09	<i>Course/Faculty Evaluation</i>	83
Section 29.10	<i>Textbooks</i>	83
Section 29.11	<i>Readmission</i>	83
Section 29.12	<i>Records</i>	84
Section 29.13	<i>Social Media</i>	85
Section 29.14	<i>Academic Integrity</i>	85
Section 29.15	<i>Program Progression</i>	85
Article XXX.	Student Discipline	86
Section 30.01	<i>Expectations</i>	86
Section 30.02	<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	86
Section 30.03	<i>Dismissal</i>	87

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 30.04	<i>Student Safety, Health, and Welfare</i>	87
Section 30.05	<i>Nursing/Patient Safety</i>	87
Article XXXI.	Student Rights	87
Section 31.01	<i>Non-discrimination</i>	87
Article XXXII.	Americans with Disabilities Act	87
Section 32.01	<i>HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Federal Law</i>	89
Section 32.02	<i>Grade Appeals</i>	89
Section 32.03	<i>Grievance Procedure</i>	90
Section 32.04	<i>Student Complaints</i>	91
Article XXXIII.	Professionalism	91
Section 33.01	<i>Breaks/Vacation/Leaves</i>	92
Section 33.02	<i>Access to Program Resources</i>	93
College of Nursing		94
Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form		94

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Welcome to the Nursing Program

Dear Students:

Welcome to the Yolanda Arriola College of Nursing at Southwest University. We would like to congratulate you on making the commitment to enhancing your education in the Nursing field. On behalf of the University Administration, Faculty, and Staff, we would like to personally wish you much success in the program and future endeavors in Nursing.

This handbook is designed to assist you in attaining success throughout any of our Nursing programs. To ensure effective education, each individual participating in any of the programs must have a full understanding of the responsibilities and considerations involved. On the following pages, you will find important information about the University and the College of Nursing, as well as policies, procedures, and expectations that affect Nursing students at Southwest University at El Paso.

This handbook is not a complete statement of all policies at Southwest University at El Paso or the College of Nursing programs. Additional information is provided in the Southwest University at El Paso Catalog and the policies and procedures manual. As a student of Southwest University at El Paso, you are subject to all policies, procedures, rules, and regulations established by Southwest University at El Paso. You are advised to be familiar with this Handbook and with the current University Catalog and to refer to each of them as needed.

Please read through this Student Handbook completely. You are expected to be familiar with its contents and to abide by the policies and procedures. If you have any questions about any part of the handbook or need information that is not given, do not hesitate to contact the Dean of Nursing or any of our Nursing faculty. You will find information in this handbook that will identify other people most able to assist you with the variety of questions you may encounter during your time as a student in the Program.

**This Handbook is subject to change. Students will be provided with written notification of any changes. You are encouraged to keep any notifications of change with the Handbook.*

Letter from the Dean of Nursing

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Yolanda Arriola College of Nursing! Whether you are just beginning your nursing journey or advancing your professional practice, you are now part of a community dedicated to learning, service, and compassion.

Nursing is more than a career; it is a calling grounded in empathy, evidence-based care, and lifelong learning. As a student here, you will be challenged to grow not only in clinical skill and scientific knowledge but also in critical thinking, integrity, and leadership. Each course, clinical experience, and collaboration will prepare you to care for individuals, families, and communities with competence and heart.

Our faculty and staff are committed to supporting you every step of the way. They bring rich professional experience, a deep passion for teaching, and a shared belief in your potential. I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources available to you, mentorship, simulation labs, student organizations, and academic support services, all designed to help you thrive both personally and professionally.

You are entering the nursing profession at a time of profound need and extraordinary opportunity. Your education here will equip you to make a meaningful impact in healthcare and to be a voice for compassion, innovation, and excellence.

As you progress through this program, remember that nursing is a lifelong journey of learning, service, and growth. Lead with integrity, care deeply for others, and take pride in the difference you will make.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I welcome you to the Southwest University College of Nursing family. We are honored to walk beside you on this important path and look forward to celebrating your achievements in the months and years ahead.

With warm regards,

Dr. Amanda Anaya

Dean of Nursing

Administrative Personnel

Founder

Yolanda Arriola

President

Benjamin Arriola

Vice President

Jeremy Burciaga

Dean of Nursing

Dr. Amanda Anaya

Pre-Licensure Program/ Associate Dean

Dr. Kelly Crowley

Post-Licensure Program Director/ Assistant Dean

Dr. Sandra Imperial

College of Nursing Mission

The Yolanda Arriola College of Nursing at Southwest University at El Paso proposes a curriculum that integrates a body of knowledge, principles, values, and skills. Its mission is to prepare the highest qualified professionals to meet the needs of individuals, families, and communities in the promotion of health and wellness.

Reflective through culturally competent evidence-based health care, formulated by faculty committed to professional nursing students and lifelong learning, accountable for providing a curriculum that meets the personal and professional needs of its economically and culturally diverse community. The curriculum expresses the essence of SUEP by the commitment to educational excellence, strengthened by quality instruction in a positive learning environment.

Philosophy

SUEP College of Nursing Associate's Degree in Nursing Program adheres to college values of effective communication, access, responsiveness, and commitment to excellence. This 16-term (6weeks per term) program, equivalent to 24 months of uninterrupted study, prepares students with the essential competencies to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field. An Associate Degree Registered Nurse promotes health for clients through hygienic care, teaching, assessment of body systems, implementation of the nursing process, including treatment modalities ordered by the physician, and rehabilitative care. Upon successful completion of the Associate of Applied Science major in Associate Degree Nursing, the graduate will be able to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a registered nurse and may seek employment.

SUEP College of Nursing RN to BSN program adheres to the college values of effective communication, access, responsiveness, and commitment to excellence. This eight-term (6weeks per term) program, equivalent to 12 months of uninterrupted study, prepares the Associate's Prepared Registered Nurse to deliver safe, spiritually and culturally appropriate evidence-based, patient-centered health promotion and disease and injury prevention interventions. They must integrate evidence-based practice and clinical judgment when evaluating outcomes related to patient-centered care. Finally, they must demonstrate continuous self-evaluation and lifelong learning. The programs exist to meet the needs of individuals, families, students, and stakeholders of a culturally diverse community. The faculty and staff are committed to the development of competent, caring registered nurses, thereby contributing to the profession of nursing through the provision of an excellent nursing program geared to meet the needs of its community and to affect change in the health care system as an aggregate.

The Southwest University at El Paso (SUEP) College of Nursing MSN program upholds the institution's core values of effective communication, accessibility, responsiveness, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. This rigorous sixteen-term program, structured in accelerated six-week terms and designed to be completed in 24 months of continuous study, prepares registered nurses for advanced clinical practice and leadership roles in a dynamic healthcare environment. The MSN curriculum builds upon foundational nursing knowledge,

SU Nursing Student Handbook

emphasizing the delivery of safe, evidence-based, patient-centered care that is both spiritually and culturally responsive. Students are expected to integrate advanced clinical judgment, research, and evidence-based practice to assess and improve health outcomes across diverse populations. Graduates of the program demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning, self-reflection, and professional growth, positioning themselves as change agents within the healthcare system. The program exists to serve individuals, families, students, and stakeholders within a culturally diverse community, with faculty and staff dedicated to the development of advanced practice nurses who are clinically competent, compassionate, and prepared to drive innovation and excellence in nursing practice.

The student's role in the educational process is to assume responsibility for learning and to achieve higher levels of self-direction in pursuit of learning and in accepting accountability for professional performance. The faculty's role is to set standards for student achievement through the development of learning experiences that assist in the attainment of such standards. The personal and professional enrichment of students, evaluation of curriculum, a role model in clinical practice, and support of lifelong learning as part of the faculty expectations. As students progress through a nursing program, they become increasingly responsible for their own academic and clinical development.

College of Nursing Goals

- Synthesize theories and concepts from the arts and humanities and the natural and social sciences in professional practice. Apply a process of lifelong learning in the development of one's nursing practice and the profession.
- Apply principles of prevention and health promotion in providing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- Use leadership skills and knowledge of the healthcare, financial, and regulatory systems to advance high-quality, safe professional practice.
- Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication and collaboration to provide quality, patient-centered care.
- Apply critical thinking, decision making, and clinical reasoning skills in providing quality nursing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- Translate research findings to provide evidence-based practice of nursing.
- Integrate professional values and ethical, moral, and legal aspects of nursing into one's professional practice.
- Manage information and technology to deliver quality patient care in a variety of settings. Demonstrate evolving competence in a professional role within a dynamic, multicultural, global society.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Advisory Board

Southwest University has an active board of advisors composed of the Nursing Department administration, Chief Nursing Officers, and healthcare administrators. Many of these board members, if not all of them, are from the field of Nursing. These board members actively participate in our advisory board meetings. Student representatives also make up the advisory board as they have an active voice in program governance. During these meetings, members are encouraged to offer suggestions and feedback based on program operations, student progress, and the needs of their facilities. Southwest University holds these advisory board meetings every quarter or whenever deemed necessary. These meeting minutes are kept on file and stored in the program director's office.

Main Campus Building Directory 915-778-4001	
Front Desk/Phone Operator	
Front Desk	EXT# 1504
Front Desk	EXT# 1505
Phone Operator	EXT# 1506
Admissions	
Elisa Valenzuela	EXT# 1100
Advising	
Maria Chaparro	EXT# 1402
Estefania Gonzalez	EXT# 1406
IT Department	
Monica Sosa	EXT# 1600
IT Techs	EXT# 1601
Community Liaison	
Illiana Garibay	EXT# 1700
Nursing	
Mariah Barrera	EXT# 1213
Financial Aid	EXT# 2100
Book Room	EXT# 1801
Library	EXT# 2022
Registrar	EXT# 1502

Article I. Associates Degree Program Description

Upon successful completion of the academic readiness examination, students will be considered for admission into the ADN Nursing Program. Applicants meeting admissions criteria are placed in a candidate pool and are offered seats in each starting class until that class has been filled.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

The Nursing Programs are offered only as full-time programs. It requires the student to attend classes according to a specific schedule and sequence set forth by the University. Successful enrollment requires the student to make a commitment to a minimum number of weeks of study, during which time the student will have only holidays and term breaks off from school. The ADN Program is 16 six-week terms (24 months). Students must prioritize their schedule to meet the didactic and clinical demands of at least 40 hours per week. Clinical hours will not exceed 12 hours per day, as they will vary based on the total number of hours required for the course and the number of days in the week scheduled, as well as the shift schedule of the clinical site to include evening and night shifts. Students who cannot give full attention to the demands of the program for the specified period of time are unlikely to be successful.

The ADN curriculum has didactic and clinical courses to include general education and prerequisites. For these terms, the student will be enrolled in classes requiring attendance on campus. The initial terms will include general education courses; because of this, the student's schedule will vary. Students can expect to spend, on average, one to two hours of study outside of class for each hour of required class. Nursing skills will be taught before going to a clinical setting, as students must check off on procedures in the lab setting. Students are to only attend clinical settings in which there is a documented affiliation agreement with the University. Clinical is an instructor-supervised event requiring the student to remain at the site while clinical is in session. **By enrolling in the Program, students understand and agree that they will accept assignment to any clinical site made by the program.** While student considerations are considered, there is no guarantee students will be placed at a site or sites of their choice. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from these sites. It may be necessary to attend clinical on the weekend based on availability and student accommodation at the clinical site.

To successfully complete the program, the student must participate in ALL of the required clinical hours.

Section 1.01 Accreditation

Southwest University at El Paso is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). The University is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission. Southwest University at El Paso is approved by the State of Texas Approving Agency for SU Nursing Student Handbook 17 Veterans Education, qualifying veterans for G.I. Bill benefits.

The ADN Nursing Program at Southwest University at El Paso is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (TXBON) to operate in the state of Texas and to prepare graduates for eligibility to take the NCLEX-RN examination. The TXBON is located at:

1801 Congress Ave. Suite 10-200 Austin, TX 78701 Additional resources are available at the TXBON website: <https://www.bon.texas.gov>

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 1.02 *ADMISSION*

Admission Criteria and Selection Process for Admission of Students

Associates Degree in Nursing

1. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for admission into the program, as well as one of the following:
 - Unencumbered LVN License
 - BS in another field of study - Previous graduate of an SU Associates or Bachelors program
 - Medical Certification with 2 years' work experience
2. Successful interview with an intake (admissions)counselor
3. Successful completion of the nursing entrance exam. The HESI exam score must be above 75% to be considered for admission to the program. A non-refundable exam fee will be incurred.
4. Background check and drug testing without deficits
5. Proof of citizenship
6. Interview with Nursing Panel (When Applicable)
6. Written Essay
7. 2 Letters of Recommendation (1 Personal and 1 Professional)

The selection process for the SUEP School of Nursing will provide an equal opportunity to enter the program for all candidates eligible for enrollment. The selection process is limited to a set number of approved students who have met all eligibility requirements, and this will be done through a ranking process.

Other Admission Information

Impacts of the nursing shortage support the need for another nursing school in El Paso, and SUEP is committed to nursing and the success of its graduates and has chosen to offer a scholarship toward progression into the RN to BSN Program for students who are successful at passing their NCLEX-RN on the first attempt and who enroll in the program within one year of graduating.

Article II. Curriculum

Students in the ADN program will be enrolled in didactic and clinical courses. Class times may vary depending on the number of assigned hours for the course. Clinical may take place on the weekend, and if so, time will be given off during the week. Please review the degree plan below. Please be advised that courses in the degree plan may change order in response to the availability of clinical sites to optimize student experience.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 2.01 <i>Degree Plan</i>			
SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY AT EL PASO PROPOSED ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM 16 TERMS (6 WEEKS/TERM) = 24 MONTHS			
TERM (6 WEEKS)	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT HOURS	CLINICAL/ DIDACTIC HOURS
1	BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab	3.0	
	ENG 110 English I	3.0	
	ALG 110 Algebra I	3.0	
2	BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	3.0	
	HC 105N Intro to Nursing	3.0	
	HC 115N Medical Terminology	3.0	
3	HC 245N Pathophysiology	3.0	
	RNSG 1410 Health Assessment I	3.0	30 Lab
	BIO 103 Microbiology	3.0	
4	RNSG 1301 Pharmacology I	4.0	30 Lab
	PSY 121N Lifespan Growth and Development	1.5	
	RNSG 1411 Health Assessment II	4.5	30 Lab
5	RNSG 1302 Pharmacology II	3.0	
	PSY 110 Psychology	3.0	30 Lab
	RNSG 1105 Nursing Skills I	3.0	
6	RNSG 1301 Pharmacology III	4.5	
	RNSG 2144 Nursing Skills II	3.0	30 Lab
7	RNSG 1413 Foundations of Nursing Practice I	4.5	30 Lab
	RNSG 1260 Foundations of Nursing Clinical I	3.0	90 Clinical
8	RNSG 1414 Foundations of Nursing Practice II	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 1265 Foundations of Nursing Clinical II	3.0	90 Clinical
9	RNSG 1441 Common Concepts of Adult Health I	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 1261 Common Concepts of Adult Clinical I	3.0	90 Clinical
10	RNSG 1442 Common Concepts of Adult Health II	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 1266 Common Concepts of Adult Clinical II	3.0	90 Clinical
11	RNSG 2213 Mental Health Nursing	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 2260 Mental Health Nursing Clinical	3.0	70 Clinical
12	RNSG 2201 Care of Children and Families	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 2262 Care of Children and Families Clinical	3.0	70 Clinical
13	RNSG 2308 Maternal/Newborn Nursing and Women's Health I	4.5	50 Didactic
	RNSG 2263 Maternal/Newborn Nursing and Women's Health Clinical I	3.0	70 Clinical

SU Nursing Student Handbook

14	RNSG 1343	Complex Concepts of Adult Health I	4.5	50 Didactic 120 Clinical
	RNSG 2162	Complex Concepts of Adult Health Clinical I	4.0	
15	RNSG 1344	Complex Concepts of Adult Health II	4.5	50 Didactic 120 Clinical
	RNSG 2165	Complex Concepts of Adult Health Clinical II	4.0	
16	RNSG 2221	Professional Nursing Leadership and Management	3.0	
	RNSG 2130	Professional Nursing Review	3.0	
	RNSG 2207	Jurisprudence	3.0	
	*Clinical/Lab to Didactic Hours are 3:1			

Article III. Conceptual Framework

The administration and faculty of SUEP believe nursing is a dynamic, caring profession that provides an essential service to the El Paso community and all of society. The service includes health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration for individuals and their families within the context of the community. The nurse provides services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client without consideration of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of their health problem. Nursing makes use of a unique body of knowledge based on theory, practice, and research, utilizing facts and concepts from biological, social, physical, and behavioral sciences. From this body of knowledge, nurses provide nursing care through the identified four primary roles known as Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs).

Three major concepts are integrated into the conceptual framework:

Section 3.01 First Concept

The first concept is the Roy Adaptation Model, which describes and gives defining characteristics to the person, environment, nursing, and health. The Roy Adaptation Model, as it is utilized by SUEP, has been simplified for use at the Associate Degree Nursing level. The program's courses are organized into the traditional nursing areas of basic skills and fundamentals, common concepts (medical/surgical), mental health, pediatrics, maternal, complex concepts, and leadership. A health assessment course is embedded into the early phase of the curriculum prior to any clinical rotations to strengthen the students' ability to collect patient history and physical data. A jurisprudence course was added to the last phase of the program as a means for the students to comply with the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas Board of Nursing by completing the Jurisprudence Exam.

Section 3.02 *Second Concept*

The second concept is the Nursing Process, which is a critical tool that provides the structure for caring action. The five-step problem-solving method is utilized by the nursing profession to facilitate the care and teaching of clients and families through assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The patient/family needs are assessed according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Abraham Maslow's humanistic philosophy theory and the psychological theory of growth and development by Erik Erikson are foundations for the program of learning. According to Maslow, all individuals have similar needs arranged in a hierarchy with higher needs emerging as basic physiological needs are met. Individuals are unique biological, psychosocial, and spiritual beings who strive to meet holistic needs. Society, a complex system that influences culture, values, and beliefs, provides direction and meaning to an individual's experiences throughout the lifespan. Basic needs and growth, and development are their client's developmental stage to his/her need for nursing care. Nursing care plans reflect the growth of critical thinking skills throughout the program. As the threats to a client's well-being increase and become more complex, the student is required to use critical thinking and creativity to assist the client. Integrated into the nursing care plan to provide students the opportunity to determine the relationship of their client's developmental stage to his/her need for nursing care. Nursing care plans reflect the growth of critical thinking skills throughout the program. As the threats to a client's well-being increase and become more complex, the student is required to use critical thinking and creativity to assist the client.

Section 3.03 *Third Concept*

The third concept is ADN roles/competencies, which are faculty-implemented and assessed at the individual and group levels. The learning environment consists of the classroom, skills laboratory, clinical simulation, case studies and scenarios, and a variety of clinical settings. Faculty serves as a role model responsible for creating an environment conducive to individual growth, responsible for instruction, counseling, guidance, evaluation, and testing of individuals and groups in varied formats that address the diversity of the student population. The individual learner is responsible and accountable for achieving identified learning objectives and competencies that increase in complexity with progression throughout the program. The process of nursing education is designed to stimulate students to seek knowledge and to develop cognitive, psychomotor, and affective behaviors as they progress from students to novice practitioners. Four interrelated roles of practice are: member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, and member of the health care team with specific competencies for each role entitled Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (Texas Board of Nursing, 2010). The QSEN safety competences will be included especially in all clinical-based courses. The Faculty/Instructor Workload, which reflects the core competencies as outlined by the National League for Nursing (NLN).

Article IV. The Roy Adaptation Model

Person

Humans are holistic, adaptive systems described as a whole with parts that function as unity for some purpose and includes individuals, groups, families, organizations, communities, and society (Roy, 2009).

Environment

Understood as the world within and around humans and defined as all conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development and behavior of persons and groups, with particular consideration of the mutuality of person and earth resources. Factors such as focal, contextual, and residual stimuli are environmental changes that demand an increase in energy to adapt to the situation.

Health

Health is a state and process of being integrated as a whole that reflects person and environment mutuality (Roy, 2009). Health is an inevitable dimension of a person's life, which is represented by a health-illness continuum.

Nursing

Nursing is a health care profession that focuses on human life processes and patterns of people with a commitment to promote health and full life-potential for individuals, families, groups, and the global society (Roy, 2009).

Article V. The Nursing Process

Nursing is an art, as well as a science, in which the holistic needs of the individual are met through utilization of the nursing process in a variety of settings. The nursing process incorporates scientific principles, interpersonal, and psychomotor skills. The practice of nursing takes place in an ever-changing health care system and requires caring, critical thinking, competency, legal and ethical accountability, dedication to an evolving body of knowledge, lifelong learning, and client advocacy. It is a problem-solving approach for gathering data, identifying the capacities and needs of the human adaptive system, selecting and implementing approaches for nursing care, and evaluating the outcome of care provided:

1. **Assessment** – involves gathering data about the behavior of the person as an adaptive system in each of the adaptive modes: physiologic-physical, self-concept-group identity, role function, and interdependence. Assessment of stimuli involves the identification of internal or external stimuli that influence the person's adaptive behaviors

2. **Nursing Diagnosis** – involves the formulation of statements that interpret data about the adaptation status of the person to include behavior and most relevant stimuli, which facilitate the formulation of a statement of the outcomes of nursing care.
3. **Intervention** – involves the determination of how best to assist the person in attainment of the established goal.
4. **Evaluation** – involves judging the effectiveness of the nursing intervention in relation to the behavior or health status after the nursing intervention in comparison to the established goal.

Section 5.01 Member of the Profession

Exhibits behaviors that reflect commitment to the growth and development of the role and function of nursing consistent with state and national regulations and with ethical and professional standards; aspires to improve the discipline of nursing and its contribution to society; and values self-assessment and the need for lifelong learning.

Section 5.02 Provider of Patient Centered Care

Accepts responsibility for the quality of nursing care and provides safe, compassionate nursing care using a systematic process (also known as the nursing process) of assessment, analysis, planning, intervention, and evaluation, through the utilization of evidenced based practice, that focuses on the needs and preferences of the individual and his/her family while incorporating professional values and ethical principles into nursing practice.

Section 5.03 Patient Safety Advocate

Promotes safety in the individual and family environment by: following scope and standards of nursing practice; practicing within the parameters of individual knowledge, skills, and attitudes; identifying and reporting actual and potential unsafe practices while complying with National Patient Safety Goals for reducing hazards to individuals in the healthcare setting.

Section 5.04 Member of the Health Care Team

Provides patient-centered care by collaborating, coordinating, and/or facilitating comprehensive care with an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary health care team to determine and implement best practices for the individual and their families, including the provision of culturally sensitive care. These identified roles provide the context for nursing and nursing practice. Nursing practice involves the use of the nursing process. The nursing process is systematic. The caregiver analyzes assessment data to identify problems, formulates goals/outcomes, and develops plans of care for individuals and their families, implements and evaluates the plan of care, while collaborating with those individuals, their families, and the interdisciplinary health care team. Nursing is interpersonal and is characterized by the implementation of the nursing process, management of a rapidly changing environment, need for clinical competency, effective use of communication and documentation, use of nursing informatics to promote quality improvement, acceptance of personal accountability and responsibility, and a commitment to the value of caring.

Section 5.05 *Individual*

We believe the individual is a unique being and has inherent dignity, worth and the capacity for growth. Each individual has a blend of physiological, psychosocial, spiritual needs that influence the perception of self, others, and the world. All individuals have human needs and possess the right to make choices that affect health. Respect for differing viewpoints, opinions, beliefs and cultures are encouraged as students interact with individuals and their families, faculty, peers, and members of the health care team and community.

Section 5.06 *Learning*

We believe learning is an active process characterized by a change in behavior, insights, and perceptions whereby students acquire and apply knowledge. The faculty guides learners by providing experiences that assist in meeting the outcomes of the nursing program. The student is responsible for acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to meet the outcomes of the nursing program. The nursing faculty acts as facilitators and role models, recognizing and supporting each student's unique qualities, varying backgrounds, skills, and learning styles. Students participate in learning through course activities that integrate previously learned concepts with newly acquired content. Self-motivation and responsibility are essential elements in the learning process. Students develop clinical reasoning and utilize nursing informatics to readily access and evaluate information. The students then contextually and effectively apply information to the nursing process to promote quality care and improvement in the patient care setting.

Section 5.07 *Nursing Education*

We believe the purpose of nursing education is to prepare graduates with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for licensure in a rapidly changing profession in a technological age. Education is a stimulus for lifelong learning. The faculty designs and implements a current and relevant curriculum guided by community needs, professional organizations, accrediting bodies, and national and state governing bodies, and evaluated by the Systematic Plan of Evaluation (SPE). The instructional processes reflect interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and best practice standards while allowing for innovation, flexibility, and technological advances.

Section 5.08 *ADN Graduate*

We believe the ADN Graduate is prepared with the skills necessary for entry into nursing practice. The ADN graduate acts in a caring, professional manner within the legal and ethical frameworks of nursing and standards of professional practice in a variety of Practice settings. Beginning practice settings for the ADN graduate should provide direct access to more experienced practitioners with greater levels of clinical expertise. Settings for beginning practice of the ADN graduate should have clearly identified policies, procedures, protocols, and lines of communication to support the new graduate. Within this environment, the new graduate has the opportunity and resources for the continuation of personal and professional growth.

Section 5.09 *Nursing Program Education Outcomes*

Upon graduation, the associate degree nurse is capable of functioning within four interrelated roles. These roles include: member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, and member of the health care team. The four roles are identified as the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs in accordance with the Texas Nurse Practice Act. Upon completion of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, the graduate should be able to:

Section 5.10 *Member of the Profession*

1. Function within the nurse's legal scope of practice and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the employing health care institution or practice setting.
2. Assume responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care provided to patients, families, populations, and communities.
3. Promote the practice of professional nursing through leadership activities and advocacy.

Section 5.11 *Provider of Patient Centered Care*

A licensed nurse (RN), based on educational preparation and scope of practice, accepts responsibility for the quality of nursing care and provides safe, compassionate nursing care using a systematic process of assessment, analysis, planning, intervention, and evaluation that focuses on the needs and preferences of patients and their families. The nurse incorporates professional values and ethical principles into nursing practice. The patients for RNs include individual patients and their families.

1. Use clinical reasoning and knowledge based on the baccalaureate degree nursing program of study, evidence-based practice outcomes, and research studies as the basis for decision-making and comprehensive patient care.
2. Determine the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients, families, populations, and communities based upon interpretation of comprehensive health assessment findings compared with evidence-based health data and a synthesis of knowledge derived from a baccalaureate degree nursing program of study.
3. Evaluate and report patient, family, population, and community outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence-based practice and research findings, and plan follow-up nursing care.
4. Provide safe, compassionate, comprehensive nursing care to patients, families, populations, and communities through a broad array of health care services.
5. Implement the plan of care for patients, families, populations, and communities within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of disease prevention, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.
6. Evaluate and report patient, family, population, and community outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence-based practice and research findings, and plan follow-up nursing care.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

7. Develop, implement, and evaluate teaching plans for patients, families, populations, and communities to address health promotion, maintenance, restoration, and population risk reduction.
8. Coordinate human, information, and material management resources in providing care for patients, families, populations, and communities.

Section 5.12 *Patient Safety Advocate*

A licensed nurse (RN) who promotes safety in the patient and family environment by: following the scope and standards of nursing practice; practicing within the parameters of individual knowledge, skills, and abilities; identifying and reporting actual and potential unsafe practices; and implementing measures to prevent harm.

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas Board of Nursing Rules that emphasize safety, as well as all federal, state, and local government and accreditation organization safety requirements and standards.
2. Implement measures to promote quality and a safe environment for patients, self, and others.
3. Formulate goals and outcomes using an evidence-based and theoretical analysis of available data to reduce patient and community risk.
4. Obtain instruction, supervision, or training, as needed, when implementing nursing procedures or practices.
5. Comply with mandatory reporting requirements of the Texas Nursing Practice Act.
6. Accept and make assignments and delegate tasks that take into consideration patient safety and organizational policy.

Section 5.13 *Member of the Health Care Team*

A licensed nurse (RN) who provides patient-centered care by collaborating, coordinating, and/or facilitating comprehensive care with an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary health care team to determine and implement best practices for the patients and their families.

1. Coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with patients, families, populations, communities, and the interdisciplinary health care team to plan, deliver, and evaluate care.
2. Serve as a health care advocate in monitoring and promoting quality and access to health care for patients, families, populations, and communities.
3. Use multiple referral resources for patients, families, populations, and communities, considering cost; confidentiality; effectiveness and efficiency of care; continuity and continuum of care; and health promotion, maintenance, and restoration.
4. Communicate and collaborate in a timely manner with members of the interdisciplinary health care team to promote and maintain optimal health status of patients, families, populations, and communities.
5. Communicate and manage information using technology to support decision-making to improve patient care and delivery systems.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

6. Assign and/or delegate nursing care to other members of the health care team based upon an analysis of patient or organizational need.
7. Supervise nursing care provided by others for whom the nurse is responsible by using best practices of management, leadership, and evaluation.

(Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs Evidenced by Knowledge, Clinical Judgments, and Behaviors (DECs), Texas Board of Nursing, October 2010).

Article VI. Curriculum Definitions

CONCEPT	DEFINITIONS
Accountability	Accepts responsibility for own learning, is on time, prepares adequately for each class and clinical, and submits all learning assignments complete and on time. To display the behavior of a professional nurse in image and representation of self, Southwest University and the community.
Activities	Learning opportunities and evidence-based practices are incorporated into own nursing practices as the basis for providing and promoting quality nursing care.
Advocacy	The program promotes safe and effective treatment of selected individuals and their families by speaking out on behalf of patient rights and participating with health care teams to provide continuity of care that is culturally sensitive and by supporting the individual's right to self-determination, choice, and confidentiality.
Caring	Actions that support a positive sense of regard and concern for individuals' families and groups, which include promoting the client's dignity and self-esteem.
Clinical Reasoning	A process of decision making, active, logical, and creative thoughts leading to an analysis of information for differentiating fact from opinion, identifying assumptions and concepts, applying knowledge to new situations to problem solve, and derive relevant conclusions.
Collaborate	Work jointly on an activity, especially to produce or create something, especially in nursing, in the form of producing a patient outcome.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Community	Any group that comes together because of common values, interests, or locality, or is viewed as forming a distinct segment of society, may also refer to a physical location and the associated environment or related health.
Continuity of Care	Is a hallmark and primary objective of nursing care and is consistent with the delivery of quality patient care provided in a patient-centered environment.
Culturally Sensitive Care (aka Cultural Competence)	Is based on behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that affords the system or professionals to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. An ability to understand, appreciate, and work with individuals from cultures other than your own.
Evidence-Based Practice	The integration of individual clinical expertise with the best available clinical expertise, patient values, and the best research evidence into the decision-making process for patient care.
Family	A group of individuals in society is usually related to parent (s) and children, or who the individuals define as family.
Health Maintenance	The goal of preserving, protecting, and supporting the health of individuals.
Health Promotion	The goal of the healthcare provider is to protect and support the health of individuals and families in the community to achieve or maintain wellness throughout a variety of health problems in life processes.
Health Restoration	The goal is to restore an individual to a previous level of functional health, while maintaining physical and mental function and preventing further deterioration through acute and rehabilitative care.
Individual	The person who is central to the goals of nursing care is identified as having actual or potential health problems/life processes that can be assisted by nursing care.
Informatics (Nursing)	The specialty that integrates nursing science with multiple information management and analytical sciences to identify, define, manage, and communicate data, information, knowledge, and wisdom in nursing practice.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Learning	The acquisition of knowledge or skills through experiences, study, or being taught.
Member of the Health Care Team	Provides patient-centered care by collaborating, coordinating, and/or facilitating comprehensive care with an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary health care team to determine and implement best practices for the individual and family.
Member of the Profession	Exhibits behaviors that reflect commitment to the growth and development of the role and function of nursing consistent with state and national regulations and with ethical and professional standards; aspires to improve the discipline of nursing and its contribution to society; and values self-assessment and the need for lifelong learning.
Needs	The individual's psychosocial and spiritual requirements for health promotion, maintenance, or restoration.
Nursing	An integral part of the health care system, it encompasses the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and care of physically ill, mentally ill, and disabled people of all ages, in all health care and other community settings.
Nursing Care	Activities that focus on health promotion, health maintenance, and or health restoration to assist individuals and families in the community to attain and maintain health.
Nursing Decisions	Use clinical reasoning guided by evidence-based practice to determine and implement nursing interventions.
Nursing Interventions	Nursing actions based on theoretical knowledge that are performed to promote, maintain, or restore health for individuals and their families.
Nursing Process	A systematic method, using critical thinking, to identify and treat actual and/or potential health problems/life processes.
Patient Safety Advocate	Promotes safety in the individual and family environment by: following the scope and standards of nursing practice; practicing within the parameters of individual knowledge, skills, and attitudes; identifying and reporting actual and potential unsafe practices while complying with National Patient Safety Goals for reducing hazards to individuals in the health care setting.
Problem Solving	A process of determining an effective solution/decision.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Professionalism	Multifaceted concept involving competency, legal and ethical responsibilities, as well as honesty, teamwork, and integrity.
Provider of Patient Centered-Care	Accepts responsibility for the quality of nursing care and provides safe, compassionate nursing care using a systematic process (also known as the nursing process) that focuses on the needs and preferences of the individual and their families while incorporating professional values and ethical principles into nursing practice.
Quality Improvement	Facility-specific process participated in to promote quality nursing care.
Responsibility	Moral, legal, or mental accountability; reliability & trustworthiness.
Safety	A process of adopting vigilant surveillance to identify potential and actual errors from both system and individual perspectives.
Teaching	Facilitating the acquisition of knowledge, insight, and skills.
Technology	The scientific methods and materials used to achieve an objective.

Article VII. Program Information

Section 7.01 Criminal Background Checks

All students entering the College of Nursing are required to complete a criminal background check as regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing and Southwest University. Students are responsible for the cost of the background check and must follow the policy designating background check procedures.

Section 7.02 Castle Branch

All students offered acceptance to the program are required to complete all necessary program clearance procedures through Castle Branch. All necessary information will be provided by the program coordinator. The student is required to pay for these services prior to full admission to the designated program. You will be required to submit copies of your driver's license and social security card.

Section 7.03 Immunizations

Before beginning clinical education, all students are responsible for showing proof of MMR and varicella immunity and a recent negative tuberculosis skin test or, if appropriate, follow-up care. If the student cannot provide assurance of immunity, the student must document MMR and

SU Nursing Student Handbook

varicella immunizations or appropriate blood titers. Hepatitis B vaccination is strongly encouraged but not required. Any student who elects not to receive the Hepatitis B vaccination must sign a form indicating this declination. Currently, the COVID vaccination is strongly suggested but not required by the clinical site. If at any time the COVID vaccination becomes mandatory, students will be required to receive the vaccination or, if available, show applicable exemptions.

Section 7.04 Substance Abuse and Drug Testing

Students may be required to submit to random drug screening, based on reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of the University Code of Conduct. A student refusing or failing a drug test is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Some clinical sites require drug testing prior to the beginning of the clinical rotations. Either the site requiring drug testing or the University may cover the cost of such testing; depending on the circumstances, the student is generally responsible for the costs of such checks. Refusing or failing a drug test, resulting in denial of the beginning of a clinical rotation at a site, is treated as a dismissal from a clinical site.

The use of illicit drugs or intoxicants on campus or at any clinical education setting or entering the University or clinical education setting while under the influence of such is prohibited by the ***Student Code of Conduct*** contained in the University Catalog. All problems should be reported to the Dean of Nursing. Any student in violation of this policy is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Program.

Section 7.05 Health Insurance

It is a requirement that students enrolled in any of the nursing programs obtain health insurance coverage prior to attendance. Formal student health insurance coverages are provided by the University at the students' cost. The student is required to maintain that insurance during the total duration of their enrollment.

When deemed necessary by program or University officials, paramedics are called. Students in need of emergency medical care while at a clinical education setting are treated in the emergency room and billed for services. Students are personally responsible for the cost of such care.

Neither Southwest University at El Paso nor any of the clinical education settings assumes responsibility for medical expenses that may be incurred for incidents that occur during the Program. The student is responsible for payment of such bills at the time of treatment.

Southwest University at El Paso provides accidental injury insurance for enrolled students. Submission of appropriate incident reports and receipts for medical expenses is required. Students are required to have health insurance to attend clinical. Students are required to hold eligible insurance to attend clinical.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 7.06 *Flu Vaccine*

To protect patients and provide a safe environment for students, staff, and the public, all students participating in clinical/practicum experiences/courses in any facility may be required to provide documentation of the seasonal flu vaccine. Failure to have the immunization may have implications for clinical attendance. Students will be provided additional information when indicated.

Section 7.07 *TB Testing and CPR Requirements*

All Nursing Students are required to provide the following documentation: Initial Tuberculosis Screening must be validated by a negative two-step TB screening (Mantoux test) or negative blood assay (QFT, TSPOT) within the past 90 days prior to beginning the Program. TB test done prior to the 90 days is not acceptable.

- If a prior positive reactor to TST, must show documentation of a negative blood assay within 90 days.
- If prior positive blood assay, present a negative chest x-ray within the past 2 years, this must not expire prior to, or during your first semester, be free of productive cough, night sweats, or unexplained loss of weight.
- Annual Testing: TST single-step skin test or blood assay, as indicated, for all students; OR if prior positive blood assay, provide health status documentation from health care provider.
- Current CPR certification: must meet the standards of the American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider. The card verifying completion must be an AHA card.
- All items must be current for the duration of the program, and the student is required to sign and maintain the standards of the clinical attestation form.

Section 7.08 *Professional Liability Insurance*

Southwest University at El Paso provides professional liability insurance for all students while engaged in scheduled clinical experience. There is no additional cost to the student for this insurance. The University policy does not cover students who are employed in institutions outside of scheduled clinical education nor will it cover students who participate in clinical education outside regularly scheduled clinical hours unless such hours have been approved in advance by the appropriate Clinical Coordinator.

Section 7.09 *Pregnancy*

Declaration of pregnancy is voluntary. While radiographic procedures are performed at various clinical sites it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to remove themselves from any area while x-ray studies are being performed which may consist of, but are not limited to the bedside, Radiology and specialty procedure areas such as Surgery, Digestive Diseases (Endoscopy), Post Anesthesia Care, and Cardiac Catheterization.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 7.10 *Medical Clearance*

In the event that a student is unable to attend class or clinical due to a personal medical reason, the student will contact the course instructor prior to the day(s). Personal medical absences are not considered excused absences. The student will not be able to return without proper medical documentation from his/her Primary Care Provider. Due to the acceleration of the nursing programs, one week is an excessive amount of time to miss from the program. Despite having a medical excuse, it may be necessary to enroll in the course again when it repeats. This situation must go before the administration and be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students who are granted permission to return to academic and clinical studies must not impose a health risk to themselves or others.

Section 7.11 *Communicable Disease*

Any student who suspects he or she might be a carrier of a communicable disease is required to consult a physician and receive clearance to return to school. If exposed to a communicable disease at a clinical education setting, the student should report the exposure to the appropriate clinical coordinator, who will provide instructions for appropriate follow-up.

Section 7.12 *Student Resource Services*

- Financial aid for qualified students of a MacBook/iPad with IT support service (*limited)
- Library Services
- Open Study Labs
- Study Areas
- Free Parking

*Information Technology is not responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the student's individual computer, although they may assist with access to university-related classes and programs.

Section 7.13 *Financial Aid*

Students who need to access any financial aid or program costs may visit any financial aid representative at the University's financial aid department. Representatives are available to answer questions concerning student tuitions, loans, and related financial aid issues during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 8 am -5 pm, or by appointment. If a student is locked out of their account for financial aid reasons/failure to pay, the student is responsible for academics.

Section 7.14 *Workplace Hazards*

Appropriate instruction in chemical, electrical, and fire safety is provided during classroom instruction. Students are advised to review this material carefully and, when faced with a situation, respond as indicated. Students in clinical education settings will be provided with the institution's policies and procedures related to chemical, electrical, and fire safety as part of the orientation to the facility.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 7.15 *Freedom from Harassment*

The program strives to provide an educational environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and conduct that can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive, including sexual harassment. It expects all faculty and students to treat others with dignity, respect, and courtesy.

If a student believes he or she is being subjected to comments or conduct of a sexual nature, where the behavior tends to threaten, offend, or create a hostile environment, the student should immediately report such conduct to the Dean of Nursing or, if in a clinical education setting, to the appropriate Clinical Coordinator. If the offense is perceived to be on the part of the Dean of Nursing or Clinical Coordinator, then the conduct should be reported to that individual's immediate supervisor.

Section 7.16 *Clinical Preparation*

Students are required to prepare for each clinical experience. This preparation includes, but is not limited to:

Having the following equipment for all clinical experiences except when designated:

- Watch with a second hand
- Stethoscope
- Pen light or Ink pen (usually black ink)
- Calculator
- Scissors (bandage type)
- Drug Handbook
- Goggles when appropriate
- Written preparation as indicated by the faculty

If a student is unprepared to safely carry out a clinical assignment, the student may be sent home and will be required to meet with program administration.

Article VIII. Critical Skill Performance Mastery

All students are required to demonstrate skill mastery according to the established departmental criteria. If a student has not demonstrated mastery of a skill, the student may not perform that skill in the hospital setting. When a student reenters the program, the student will perform the skill mastery with each entry. These tasks will be completed during the scheduled skills performance check-offs. The Mastery Skills Check-Off is scheduled according to departmental guidelines and during the Skills I and Skills II courses. Students who are unsuccessful in this demonstration adhere to the following procedure;

Section 8.01 *1ST UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION*

- The student meets with the instructor for a formal performance conference to review written documentation of the deficiency and criteria for meeting the requirements for

SU Nursing Student Handbook

performance mastery, as well as a remediation plan. The highest grade the student can obtain on the second attempt is a 75%.

- The student repeats a skill demonstration at a specified time **after the opportunity for remediation**

Section 8.02 2ND UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION

- The student meets with the College of Nursing Administration for a formal conference to review written documentation of the deficiency and criteria for meeting the requirements for performance mastery, as well as a remediation plan. The highest grade the student can obtain on the third attempt is a 50%.
- The student repeats a skill demonstration at a specified time* after required remediation has been completed. *

Section 8.03 3RD UNSUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION

- The student meets with the College of Nursing Administration to discuss educational options.
- The student will receive a performance grade of “F” and will not be cleared to attend clinical, thus resulting in them failing the clinical course. If the student is in their last term of the program and completing the final competency checkoff, failure to pass the third attempt would result in failure of the course and inability to graduate with their cohort.

**Failure to keep an appointment for a repeat skill demonstration is the same as an unsuccessful demonstration.*

Article IX. Technical Standards

The Program is committed to providing education to qualified individuals without regard to disability, provided that technical standards are met. Due to the requirements of the profession and to assure patient safety, the technical standards represent the essential nonacademic requirements a student must meet. Successfully completing the ADN Program of SUEP means the graduate has been educated to competently practice nursing in all healthcare settings and to apply for RN licensure. The education of a future nurse requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for independent, semi-autonomous practice, where making appropriate decisions is required.

The curriculum requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences essential to the acquisition and practice of essential nursing skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of this program, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty, and other healthcare workers.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Physical and emotional health are also critical to the successful progression and completion of this Program. Physical health is defined as the ability to perform both fine and gross motor skills, being able to perform normal weight-bearing activities, and being free of communicable diseases. Emotional health is defined as reacting appropriately to stressful situations, understanding one's own ability to cope with stressful situations, and behaving appropriately within the current environment.

within the current environment. The essential abilities necessary to acquire or demonstrate competence in a discipline as complex as nursing and needed for successful progression by nursing (in addition to the standards of behavior and conduct set forth by SUEP) include, but are not limited to, the following:

Section 9.01 *Motor Skills*

Students should have sufficient motor function so they are able to execute movements required to provide safe, effective general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings. For example, for the safety and protection of the patients, the student must be able to perform basic life support, including CPR, and function in an emergency. The student must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist a patient in moving, for example, from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode.

- Mobility – possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, maneuver in small spaces, and stand and walk for extensive periods of time
- Weight-Bearing – possess the ability to lift and manipulate, and move 45-50 pounds (22 Kg) sometimes daily.

Section 9.02 *Sensory/Observation*

Students must be able to acquire the information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and nursing sciences. He or she must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessments and interventions or administering medications. The student must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination.

- Hearing – possess auditory ability sufficient for observation and assessment. For example, hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help.
- Visual – possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment. For example, observe patient responses to interventions.
- Tactile – possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. For example, perform palpation, functions, or physical examination and/or related therapeutic intervention, and insertions of various catheters.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 9.03 *Communication*

Students must communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. He or she must express his or her ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. A student must be able to: convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The student must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms. The student must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on the student's ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

Section 9.04 *Cognitive*

Students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in the context of the nursing curriculum. The student must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material. He or she must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting. Students must organize responsibilities and make appropriate decisions.

- Critical Thinking/Clinical Reasoning – process critical thinking and clinical reasoning ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example, one must be able to identify cause-and-effect relationships in clinical situations.

Section 9.05 *Behavioral/Emotional*

Students must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, he or she must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances (with different social, intellectual, and cultural backgrounds), including highly stressful situations. The student must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. The student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. The student must know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. The student must be able and willing to examine and change his or her behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships. The student must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.

Section 9.06 *Professional Conduct*

Students must possess the ability to reason morally and practice nursing in an ethical manner. Students must be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. Students must

SU Nursing Student Handbook

not engage in unprofessional conduct and must possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.

Students must be able to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations, including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults.

Section 9.07 *Ethical Behavior*

Students are expected to demonstrate ethical behavior as specified in the ANA Code for Nurses described below. The Code for Nurses adopted by the American Nurses' Association in 1950 and was revised in 1960, 1968, 1976, 1985, 1995, 2001, 2008, and 2015.

The Code, consisting of nine provisions and the accompanying interpretive statements:

- Provides a concise statement of the ethical values, obligations, and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession. o Serves as the profession's nonnegotiable ethical standard.
- Expresses nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society.

Provision 1: The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2: The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

Provision 3: The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, safety, and well-being of the patient.

Provision 4: The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

Provision 5: The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

Provision 6: The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

Provision 7: The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standard development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

Provision 8: The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

Provision 9: The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

American Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, Washington, D.C.: American Nurses Publishing, 2015

Article X. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Federal Law

This law protects patients' rights regarding their health information, including the right to review it and make decisions about how it is used and disclosed, and requires health care providers to implement safeguards to ensure the privacy of patient's health information.

PHI = Protected Health Information Protected health information (PHI) is confidential and protected from access, use, or disclosure except to authorized individuals requiring access to such information. Attempting to obtain or use, actually obtaining or using, or assisting others to obtain or use PHI, when unauthorized or improper, will result in counseling and/or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

Students are not to write the name of the patient, as it is acceptable to write the initials. Do not take any of the patients' PHI home.

Do not discuss patients in public, in the elevator, lunch room, with family or friends. Any of the patient identifiers, such as hospital ID numbers, SS numbers, etc., are considered PHI. The student nurse will never utilize a phone to take a picture or photocopy any of the patient's PHI. Students are responsible for taking the time to research and comply with the laws as identified by HIPAA.

Section 10.01 *Clinical Experience*

Prior to clinical placement, the student must successfully pass all courses and document NCLEX-required didactic competencies in CPR, vital signs, sterile and aseptic technique, and venipuncture (obtained in the clinical portion of the nursing program). The student must also demonstrate to the satisfaction of the nursing faculty the professionalism required of a health care worker.

Section 10.02 *Site Placement*

The assignment of students to specific clinical sites is at the discretion of the faculty. By enrolling in the program, the student has agreed to accept placement at any facility to which he or she is assigned.

Every effort is made to notify students of their upcoming clinical placement at least one week in advance of the beginning of the term. Because unforeseen changes in personnel and/or schedules at clinical sites can adversely affect the educational environment, placement cannot always be predicted in advance.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

The Program reserves the right to change clinical education assignments at any time if, in the opinion of the faculty, such a move is necessary to assure successful outcomes for all students.

Section 10.03 *Transportation*

The student is responsible for providing reliable transportation to clinical education settings. Transportation difficulties cannot be used as an excuse for absence or tardiness problems. Students are not permitted to leave the site during their rotation without approval from clinical faculty.

Section 10.04 *Hospital Visitation*

Students are permitted in the hospital in the role of “Nursing Student” only during the designated clinical rotation and clinical preparation times. Additional time on the nursing unit must be arranged with the clinical instructor. When not in the role of “Nursing Student,” students assume the role of visitor and abide by hospital regulations. Uniforms, lab coats, or name tags should not be worn while the student is in the role of visitor.

Article XI. Academic and Clinical Information

Section 11.01 *Classroom Attendance*

The classroom is the center of instruction for courses categorized as didactic. While textbooks and references provide information, it is in the classroom where this information is discussed, clarified, and supplemented. A student’s presence and participation in classroom activities are necessary to facilitate his or her learning progress.

Accordingly, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratory sessions and to remain in class until the class is dismissed. Attendance will be taken at every session, and records of attendance will be recorded and maintained for all classes and labs. Absence from class and/or recurrent tardiness may result in a reduced or failing grade regardless of other class performance. Students will be given daily quizzes and activities that cannot be made up, regardless of whether or not the absence is excused or not excused with a physician’s note. These activities contribute to the student’s overall grade in the course. Unexcused absences may result in the student being dismissed from the program. Absences are cumulative over the duration of the program.

The College of Nursing has established a programmatic attendance policy that will help facilitate the learning of required knowledge, technical skills, and patient care vital to success in the Nursing profession. The program acknowledges that emergency circumstances (i.e., serious illness, death, and funeral of an immediate family member) can occur; such events will be taken under advisement by the Faculty and the Dean of Nursing. However, students must provide the Faculty and the Dean of Nursing with documentation supporting their reason for being late and or absent. It is required that students contact their instructor ahead of time if they will not be able

SU Nursing Student Handbook

to attend class/clinical or will be arriving late. Excused absences are reviewed by the Faculty and the Dean of Nursing on an individual basis.

Instructors can refuse to admit students who are tardy, as well as refuse to allow students to make up work missed due to the tardy. Tardiness constitutes arriving after class has started. Employment is not a legitimate reason or excuse for absence. Scheduled class time and clinical rotation hours are subject to change and or fluctuate at any time. Instructors may refuse to allow assignments to be made up due to an unexcused absence when documentation or prior notification was not provided.

Section 11.02 *Clinical Attendance*

Students are expected to report promptly for all assigned educational experiences. Required clinical hours must be performed as assigned.

Regular attendance is an essential expectation of a nurse. There is no grace period. If a student is scheduled to be in the clinical setting at a specific time, the program and the clinic expect that the student is ready to start performing examinations at that time. Clinical is mandatory, and only excused absences will be allowed to be made up at the discretion of the instructor. Any excused clinical hours must be made up before the end of the current term.

Students are required to complete program clearance through Castle Branch (a third-party vendor) and are responsible for the cost of these services.

(Please see Clinical Attestation for more information)

Section 11.03 *Orientation*

Students can be provided with additional orientation, which is at the discretion of the assigned facility. These orientations may include facility-conducted presentations or webinars based on the specific clinical setting.

Section 11.04 *Punctuality*

Punctuality is an important factor in the clinical setting as it prevents interruptions in the continuity of patient care. Students must be in class and at clinical education settings at the scheduled starting time and cannot leave before the scheduled ending time. Not only does the student miss information when arriving late, but entering a class already in progress is a disruption and discourtesy to others. Clinical education settings cannot delay scheduled patient procedures to accommodate a tardy student. Classroom and clinical instructors will take punctuality into account in evaluating each student, and course grades may be reduced or a grade of "F" assigned due to excessive tardiness or leaving early, regardless of the student's performance in other areas. A student missing a daily activity or quiz because of tardiness will not be allowed to make up missed activities (Please see the attendance policy above).

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 11.05 *Test Administration/ Remediation and Make-up*

Test dates are made known to all students in advance by announcement or printed schedule. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates. Students shall make every effort to be present on scheduled test dates. Make-up exams and related penalties are at the discretion of individual instructors. The instructor's policy will be outlined in the course syllabus and on the first day of class. If a student is not able to take a test as scheduled, it is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor to make arrangements for any allowed make-up prior to the missed exam. Any student who does not achieve a minimum of 75 on an exam is required to meet with their course instructor for remediation prior to the next scheduled exam date. Course faculty have the discretion to make remediation mandatory when deemed necessary.

Section 11.06 *Tardiness*

Tests and quizzes can be given at the beginning of class sessions for specified periods of time. Late arrival distracts other test/quiz takers and diminishes the amount of time available to a student for completion of the test or quiz. It is at the instructor's discretion whether a late-arriving student will be permitted to take a test/quiz, allowed to do a make-up test/quiz, or receive a zero.

Quizzes and exams administered online will be restricted to specific dates and times. It is at the instructor's discretion whether to allow a student who is late to take the quiz or exam, but additional time may not be added for completion.

Section 11.07 *Committee Representation*

Student representation is requested for standing faculty committees:

- SUEP CON Advisory Board: Minimum one student volunteer.
- Student Affairs Committee: Minimum one student volunteer.

Section 11.08 *Course/Faculty Evaluation*

Students are given opportunities to evaluate specific courses, theory, and clinical instructors and the nursing program as a whole. Constructive student feedback is important in improving the curriculum and instruction. Evaluation forms/links and directions will be provided by the course instructor(s).

Section 11.09 *Outside Employment*

Students who work must modify their hours of employment as necessary to avoid conflicts with scheduled classes, laboratories, seminars, and clinical assignments while enrolled in the nursing program. Outside work does not in any way mitigate performance problems, absence, or tardiness. Absence from class, failure to be prepared for class, or absence from clinical assignment due to conflicts with outside work, or performance issues resulting from fatigue or distraction due to outside work will result in discipline, up to and including dismissal from the program, as set forth elsewhere in this Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to avoid conflict between school and work by limiting or arranging outside work accordingly. Due to the

SU Nursing Student Handbook

intensity of nursing school and this accelerated program, it is strongly suggested that students do not work.

Section 11.10 *Textbooks*

Program costs include the required textbooks and other required course materials, which are provided to students at the appropriate time for each course. Many textbooks are used for more than one course and may be used in more than one term. Because of this and the need for study references in preparation for the NCLEX examination that follows graduation, students are advised to keep all books for future reference. Should a replacement be required for any course materials provided, the student will be charged for the cost of the replacement. Students within the nursing program are required to utilize E-books with designated resources on the Evolve platform and are expected to bring all necessary technology to all course instructional time periods. Students will be required to have internet access to complete assigned coursework both on and off campus.

Section 11.11 *Cell Phones*

No cell phone use, smart watch use, ear bud(s), or text messaging will be allowed in the classroom, labs, exams/quizzes, or during clinical. If your cell phone rings or vibrates during a test, the test will be picked up and graded where it was completed. If a student is unauthorized to use a cell phone, smartphone, or smart watch during class or lab hours, the instructor has the option of deducting 5 points from the checkoff competencies for the corresponding skill being covered. If any of the above devices are used during clinical rotations, the instructor will have the student leave the facility and deduct 10 points from the final grade for the clinical competencies. If utilizing a computer, it must be for class use only. If there is an emergency, you may notify the instructor.

Section 11.12 *Instructional Methods*

Most classroom presentations are conducted in the standard lecture-discussion method. All nursing courses will have course objectives on the syllabus as well as DEC's and QSEN competencies. A variety of audiovisual aids and laboratory experiments are used when appropriate to supplement instruction. Reading, library, and other required assignments are determined by the instructor.

The nursing laboratory contains a nursing unit capable of performing standard procedures. Program faculty supervise students as they practice. These nursing procedures may be made by using Simulators designed for that purpose. Laboratory competency testing is required of students before they are assigned to clinical education settings.

Article XII. Grading

Students are evaluated in each class or lab throughout the term by means of tests, quizzes, assignments, participation, attendance, etc. The following grading system will be utilized in the ADN Program for core nursing courses:

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
A	90 – 100	4.0	Excellent
B	80 – 89	3.0	Good
C	75 – 79	2.0	Satisfactory
**D	65 – 74	1.0	Failing: Unable to Progress
F	Below 64	0	Failing

*There will not be any rounding at any time.

****PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GRADE OF “D” DOES NOT EXIST IN THE NURSING COURSES (RNSG OR NURS-DESIGNATED COURSES OR GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES WITH AN “N” NOTATION) AS ANY POINT VALUE BELOW 75 REPRESENTS A FAILURE.**

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A STAND-ALONE EXAM AVERAGE OF 75% OR HIGHER IN EACH COURSE TO SUCCESSFULLY PROGRESS IN THE PROGRAM (Exceptions include multi-part courses. Please see course syllabi for specific guidelines).

ROUNDING OF THE FINAL EXAM SCORE IS NOT PERMITTED.

A “C” represents the minimum passing grade and thus the minimum level of knowledge or skill expected.

In didactic and laboratory courses, instructors will evaluate the cognitive domain (primarily in classroom courses) and/or the psychomotor domain (primarily in laboratory courses) and use that evaluation in assigning a letter grade. In addition, the instructor will evaluate each student’s progress in the affective domain and counsel students who demonstrate less than satisfactory performance in that domain. Students graded as “unsatisfactory” in the affective domain may receive an “F” for the course regardless of performance in the cognitive or psychomotor areas. In clinical courses, the clinical staff and clinical coordinators will evaluate the student’s overall performance in cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains and assign a letter grade based on aggregate performance. Students receiving an “unsatisfactory” rating in any one or more of these domains at the end of a term will receive a failing grade for the term.

Section 12.01 *Academic Standing*

To be in good standing in any of the Nursing Programs, the student must be in compliance with all policies and procedures as listed in this handbook. Grading is an extremely important factor and is listed in the table above.

The student is also advised to be familiar with the University’s Standards of Satisfactory Progress, as described in the University Catalog.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

The academic standing of each student in the program is reviewed at the conclusion of each term. Students whose Nursing course grades or cumulative GPA are found to be below the minimal acceptable level will be notified that they may not continue in the program until the inadequacy is corrected. All general education courses must be passed with a “C” grade or better for the student to progress into nursing courses. Nursing course(s) completed with grades less than “C” must be repeated before further nursing courses can be taken. Any grade below a “C” is considered an “F” and the course must be retaken. Courses that must be repeated due to unsatisfactory grades may not be immediately available to the student for repeating. The University will admit students to repeat courses only when space is available. This may result in the student being withdrawn from active enrollment until such time as the course is available to the student. No student progressing normally through the program will be denied a seat in a course to make room for a student who is required to repeat a course.

Section 12.02 *Academic Advisement*

The purpose of academic advising is to assist students with any issues that might impact their success in completing the program. The program faculty serve as the academic advisors to all students enrolled in the program during their designated courses. Students may also seek academic advising from student services for general education classes and scheduling conflicts. Students may meet with individual course instructors during office hours or by appointment for issues related to exams, etc., in a particular course. It is the responsibility of the student to make and keep appointments at the frequency as mandated and documented by the advisor.

Section 12.03 *Tutoring*

Although the ultimate responsibility for learning rests with each student, the faculty is committed to fostering and contributing to student success. Students who encounter difficulty in any class are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to discuss any issues with the instructor. Faculty will tutor students as appropriate at no additional cost to the student. Faculty welcome the opportunity to work individually with students as needed to ensure student success, but an appointment may be required in an effort to meet the needs of all students

Section 12.04 *Remediation*

Any student not scoring above 75% on each course exam is required to complete remediation with the designated course faculty prior to the next unit exam. Scheduling is at the discretion of the faculty member. Faculty have the right to require a student to attend remediation based on their discretion, regardless of the student's score on an exam, project, assignment, and/or clinical-lab performance.

Section 12.05 *Graduation Requirements*

Southwest University at El Paso awards the following degrees through the College of Nursing: An Associate Degree in Nursing, a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (via the RN to BSN), and a Master's of Science in Nursing to students meeting all graduation requirements for each respective program.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

The student should carefully read and understand the graduation requirements outlined in the University Catalog. They include completion of all courses in the Nursing Programs with a grade of “C” or better and a GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale upon the completion of all courses, fulfillment of clinical hours, and completion of all nursing required competencies. Please reference the program's progression policy for more information.

**Students are required to have a 75% or better test average in each course to progress within the curriculum.*

Section 12.06 *Pre-Clinical Clearance Exam Proficiency*

Students must demonstrate continued proficiency in patient safety to include but not limited to dosage calculations, medical terminology, lab values, and anatomy and physiology, by passing a pre-clinical clearance quiz with the required minimum score in each clinical course prior to the first day of clinical, as a mandate of the program for medication administration and patient safety in the clinical setting.

Students will have two (2) opportunities to demonstrate proficiency as indicated by the following guidelines:

1. First unsuccessful demonstration per course-specific requirement:
 - The student meets with the instructor in a formal performance conference to review written documentation and the criteria for meeting the requirements for proficiency as well as a remediation plan.
 - The student retests within a specified time period.
2. Second unsuccessful demonstration per course-specific requirement:
 - The student meets with the instructor for a formal probation conference/report to review documentation, criteria for meeting the requirements, as well as a remediation plan.
 - The student will not be allowed to progress in the course and must meet with the program director to discuss progression.

**Failure to keep an appointment for a repeat demonstration is the same as an unsuccessful demonstration.*

Section 12.07 *Clinical Evaluations of Student Performance*

Students will receive clear information as to the requirements to successfully meet the objectives of clinical and/or the demonstration of skills, competencies, including items that are graded as Pass or Fail. The information is available in the course syllabi that are issued to students within 24 hours of the course beginning. A clinical evaluation tool will be utilized by faculty with a companion rubric that clearly explains how points are achieved and the maximum obtainable in any given category.

All students are required to demonstrate skill mastery according to the established departmental criteria at each level. If a student has not demonstrated mastery of a skill, the student may not perform that skill in the hospital setting. The student must schedule an appointment with the

SU Nursing Student Handbook

instructor for monitored practice, followed by a successful demonstration of skill, before being able to perform in a clinical setting.

Critical elements that are reflected in the tools include such items as: safe administration of medications, reporting changes in client condition, and use of a systematic approach to planning, implementing, and evaluating client care.

Section 12.08 *Withdrawal*

Students have the right to withdraw from the program at any time. However, students are strongly encouraged to discuss such plans with the Associate Dean of Nursing before taking any such action. To withdraw, the student must submit an email to the Associate Dean of Nursing with details regarding the need to withdraw. In the event of withdrawal, the student will be charged tuition based on the refund policy in the University Catalog. Students who withdraw from a nursing course and intend to return to the nursing program will be required to reapply to the program for the next available start date and are not guaranteed a seat in the cohort.

Section 12.09 *Readmission*

Any student who wishes to re-enroll in any of the nursing programs following an interruption in enrollment must petition for readmission. The petition consists of a letter (typed, dated, and signed by the student) requesting readmission for a specific term and a statement explaining the reason for the original withdrawal, and a plan for change to resolve the cause(s) of withdrawal. The Dean of Nursing may request that the student support the petition with documents or testimony from witnesses and may require the student to appear for an interview. To be considered for readmission, the student's request letter and statement must be received by the Associate Dean of Nursing no later than the midterm of the term prior to the one in which the student is seeking readmission.

The Dean of Nursing will consider the petition and may accept the petition under specifically stated conditions or deny the petition. A primary consideration in determining eligibility for readmission will be a careful examination of the reason for the prior withdrawal. Readmission will be offered only in circumstances where it is apparent the reason or reasons for prior withdrawal have been resolved and where it can be determined that the student is now more capable of and more likely to succeed in meeting all Program requirements. If terms or conditions of re-enrollment are given, the student may accept such terms or decline the offer of re-enrollment.

If readmission to the program is offered, the timing will be based on the availability of space at the point in the program where the student is to return. If no space is available at the time the student wishes to return, readmission may be denied on that basis. Students are required to return during the next active course cycle. Failure to return during that time frame will result in the student's inability to return to the program.

Students who are dismissed from the program due to failure to follow program policies and/or failure to meet academic standards have the ability to petition for re-enrollment for a second

SU Nursing Student Handbook

admission attempt. A student will only be permitted to re-enroll in the nursing program once. If a student drops out, is dismissed, or fails to maintain good academic standing after readmission for the second attempt, that student will not be considered for readmission again.

Students who have been dismissed from the University as a result of violations of the “Student Code of Conduct” found in the University Catalog; actions that violate law; actions that are disruptive to others or the educational process; actions that violate the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing; physical endangerment of others; theft of University or hospital property; possession of weapons or illegal substances on University or hospital property; criminal activity; taking or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol during classes, labs, seminars or clinical assignments; and actions or omissions that are a reoccurrence of behavior that was a subject of prior verbal or written warnings are not eligible for readmission to the Program. Students are required to petition for readmission within 1 year of a failed course, or the student waives credit for previously passed courses to include clinical hours.

Section 12.10 *ADN Examination Eligibility*

Information is available at the TXBON website: <https://www.bon.texas.gov/> or from the Program Director.

Section 12.11 *Records*

Academic and health information pertinent to each nursing student is maintained by the Nursing program in separate files for three years after the student graduates or withdraws from the program, although the records are only kept on campus while the student is actively enrolled. Records that are not on campus will be stored in accordance with university policy.

Students may access their academic and health files by arranging an appointment with Student Services. No copy of health records is provided to students. Students are encouraged to retain a personal copy of their health records. Students are expected to keep all file information current in case emergency notification becomes necessary. Student files are stored to protect the file and the information contained in the file. Any public inquiries concerning a student will be referred to the Program Coordinator.

Academic records may include:

- Application(s)/Transcripts
- HIPAA
- HESI test scores
- CPR training documentation
- Correspondence to and from the student
- Clinical evaluation tools
- Conference forms
- Confidentiality forms

SU Nursing Student Handbook

- Licensure/certification
- Probation forms
- Student information sheet
- Documentation of any requirements of affiliating institutions

Health records may include:

- Physical examination form
- Immunization records
- Correspondence to and from the student or health care provider(s)
- Medical releases

Section 12.12 *Social Media*

Students enrolled in the College of Nursing are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality at all times—including on social media platforms. Inappropriate use of social media can violate privacy laws, breach patient confidentiality, and damage the reputation of the student, the College, and affiliated clinical partners.

Section 12.13 *Students are strictly prohibited from:*

- Posting or sharing any patient information or images, even if de-identified
- Sharing photos, videos, or content from clinical settings without express written permission
- Discussing specific patient cases or clinical experiences in a way that could be interpreted as unprofessional or unethical
- Making discriminatory comments, harassing, or threatening others, including peers, faculty, staff, or clinical personnel
- Using social media to represent or speak on behalf of the College of Nursing without prior authorization

Students must:

- Follow all HIPAA regulations and privacy laws
- Use good judgment when posting publicly or privately
- Understand that online content is permanent and may impact future employment, licensure, and academic standing

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the nursing program.

Article XIII. Testing

Students must adhere to the following testing guidelines in order to ensure a quiet testing environment free from distraction and to limit the opportunity for or appearance of academic dishonesty.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 13.01 *Computer Testing and Written Examinations*

1. All personal belongings will be placed at the front of the classroom upon entering.
2. To the extent possible, students will be seated throughout the room.
3. No hats or hooded shirts, sweaters, vests, etc., or sunglasses allowed in the testing environment.
4. Absolutely no communication is to take place among students while the test is in progress.
5. No use of a cell phone for any reason should take place during the exam or in the class setting.
6. Students are responsible for the accuracy of selected responses and time management during the test. All omitted responses will be graded as a wrong response.
7. Scores displayed after a test are considered tentative until the exam results have been reviewed by the faculty.

Students are responsible for raising their hands immediately if there is a malfunction of their computer during testing.

Section 13.02 *Missed Exams*

Students are expected to be present for all exams. If a student is unable to take a scheduled exam, the student must notify the course facilitator/instructor as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the scheduled exam time. If a student does not notify the instructor, the grade will be a zero (0). No student may enter the testing area to begin testing after any student has completed the test and left the room. Arriving late to an exam forfeits your right to take the exam, resulting in a grade of “0”.

Article XIV. Academic Integrity and Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation and an essential component of professional behavior within the College of Nursing. Students are responsible for demonstrating honesty, accountability, and ethical conduct in all academic work. All written assignments must be submitted through Turnitin software, and failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

The College’s plagiarism policy requires that all written work maintain a similarity index of less than 20%, ensuring original scholarship and proper attribution of sources.

In addition, students must use artificial intelligence (AI) tools—such as ChatGPT and other AI writing assistants—appropriately and ethically. AI may be used only when explicitly permitted by faculty and must be fully disclosed when incorporated into academic work. AI-generated content must not replace the student’s own critical thinking, clinical judgment, or original analysis. Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI to produce academic work is considered a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include failure of the assignment or dismissal from the program.

Article XV. Program Progression

To ensure successful progression through the nursing program, the student must:

- Complete pre-requisite courses before progressing in the program.
- Follow and receive credit for the courses as listed in the nursing program.
- Be aware that failure of any nursing course requires the course to be repeated without progression to the next course until the failed course is completed with a grade of 75 or above (to include a standalone exam average of 75). If the course failed is a multi-part course (to include courses with a clinical component), the student will be required to take all pre-requisite courses to the course failed at the student's cost.
- A student who withdraws from a general education, pre-requisite, or co-requisite course during the term is not eligible for progression to the next term until that course is completed.
- Achieve a minimum grade of “C” in all courses in the degree plan. o Satisfactorily meet course objectives.

Article XVI. Student Discipline

Section 16.01 *Expectations*

Nursing students are expected to adhere to the “Student Code of Conduct” and all other University policies, rules, and regulations as published in the Southwest University at El Paso catalog and/or student handbooks. Violations of the code of conduct on the University campus, at any clinical education setting, or during any University-sponsored event shall be subject to discipline.

Section 16.02 *Disciplinary Actions*

Students who violate policy or procedure established by the CON or Southwest University at El Paso shall be subject to disciplinary action.

There are four levels of disciplinary actions.

- 1. verbal warning**
- 2. written warning**
- 3. suspension from the Program**
- 4. dismissal from the Program**

The type of action is dependent on the nature of the offense and the circumstances under which it occurred. This means that severe offenses can result in level two or three actions, whether or not it is a first offense, and whether or not there have been any prior efforts to advise the student concerning the behavior.

Verbal warnings are used to call a student’s attention to minor offenses. Once warned, it is expected that the student will avoid further violations. These warnings are recorded on a counseling form that is signed by the Program Director or an instructor.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Written warnings are used for more serious offenses or instances when a student fails to heed a prior verbal warning. A written warning consists of a form or letter to the student from the Dean of Nursing or Clinical Coordinator. The form or letter specifies the violation and may set forth specific standards of performance or conduct that the student must maintain in order to avoid further disciplinary action. A copy of the warning letter or form is placed in the student's file until graduation. The program reserves the right to dismiss any student who accumulates more than two (2) write-ups.

Section 16.03 *Substance Abuse*

The use of illicit drugs or intoxicants on campus or at any clinical education setting or entering the University or clinical education setting while under the influence of such is prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct contained in the University Catalog. All problems should be reported to the Program Director. Any student in violation of this policy is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from any of the programs.

Section 16.04 *Dismissal*

Students shall be dismissed from the nursing programs for serious or repeated violations of program or University policies and procedures, including policies regarding attendance or tardiness.

Although clinical affiliates or affiliate personnel cannot dismiss students from the program, they do have the right to ask for the removal of a student if, in their opinion, the student is not performing up to his or her level of education or if the student fails to act professionally. If a student is asked to leave a clinical site prior to the end of a term, the program cannot guarantee another placement that allows the student to successfully complete the term. The student will receive another placement as soon as one becomes available, but the out-of-sequence student will be lowest in priority for clinical assignment. If a student is asked to leave or removed from a clinical site, the student may be dismissed from the Program.

Article XVII. HESI

All students are required to take the HESI exam for designated courses. The student will have two attempts to achieve the required score of 900. For all prerequisite courses leading to RNSG 2130, a conversion table will be used. Each attempt score will count as an exam grade that contributes to the overall exam average, which is required to be 75% or above to successfully pass the course. All students are required to complete assigned remediation twice (After each attempt). Remediation will consist of case study completion with a minimum score of 80% on each case study and time standards. The final score will be determined using the conversion table. **For RNSG 2130, the student must score a 900 on one of the two attempts, or they will be required to meet with the Director of Nursing to determine the course of action and progression.**

SU Nursing Student Handbook

HESI Score	Grade
1025 and Above	100
1000-1024	95
950-999	90
925-949	85
900-924	80
850-899	75
800-849	70
750-799	65
700-749	60
650-699	55
600-649	50
550-599	45
549- Below	0
A minimum exam average of 75% must be maintained to pass nursing courses.	

**** All students are required to take both versions of the HESI for the assigned course with the intent of scoring above a 900 on each attempt. Students will be required to complete remediation after both attempts as assigned by the course faculty. Reviewing rationales after each attempt is part of the remediation. Upon completion of version one, any student who fails to complete assigned remediation will be required to sit for 2nd attempt but receive a reduction of their earned grade by 50% (Example: Grade of 90 would be reduced to 45). If the student is able to show evidence that the remediation was completed as required, the grade will be changed to the earned score. Any student assigned remediation for their 2nd attempt will receive a reduction of their earned grade by 50% on the 2nd attempt if they do not complete the assigned remediation by the due date. The HESI exam average will be averaged with all course exams to calculate the final exam average for the course.

Article XVIII. NCLEX

The Texas Board of Nursing has identified circumstances that may render a potential candidate ineligible for licensure as a Registered Nurse in the state of Texas. Please visit the TBON website for more info:

www.bne.state.tx.us/applications_graduates_and_nclex_examinations.asp

Students are required to pay the fees associated with the NCLEX, Pearson Vue, and Jurisprudence exam as regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing. **The student will be required to pay these fees in their last term and will not be allowed to pass the program until these steps are complete.**

Article XIX. Student Safety, Health, and Welfare

The College of Nursing takes the safety and welfare of its students seriously. The following policies and procedures are part of faculty efforts to assure student safety.

Section 19.01 *Nursing/Patient Safety*

Students in any of the Nursing programs shall practice appropriate safety procedures in protecting patients, themselves, and others from unnecessary harm and exposures at all times.

Section 19.02 *Student Rights Non-discrimination*

The Nursing Programs adhere to institutional policy regarding non-discrimination. No person shall be excluded from or denied benefits of any program or activity based on sex, color, race, creed, age, religion, natural or regional origin. In addition, no qualified handicapped person shall be excluded from or denied the benefits of any program or activity as long as he/she meets the technical standards as described on the page in this Handbook.

Admission procedures and ongoing operations are conducted in accordance with this policy. Each of the recognized clinical education settings also supports non-discrimination.

Any student who feels he or she is being discriminated against in violation of this policy is encouraged to bring the complaint to the **immediate** attention of the Dean of Nursing.

Section 19.03 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

The Nursing Programs adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Any student requiring accommodation for a documented disability must meet with the Program Director to request that accommodation at the beginning of the program. The student will be required to provide documentation of the disability from an appropriate health care provider.

Section 19.04 *Accommodating Students with Disabilities*

Two primary federal laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination in higher educational settings like colleges and universities are the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act). Title III of the ADA covers private colleges and vocational schools. If a school receives federal dollars, including federal financial assistance, regardless of whether it is private or public, it is also covered by the Rehabilitation Act. Because SU receives federal financial assistance, it must comply with both the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA and the Rehabilitation Act prohibit schools from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Moreover, the ADA gives students with disabilities the right to the same goods, services, facilities, privileges, and advantages as nondisabled students, in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Schools cannot have eligibility requirements that screen out people with physical or mental disabilities. Moreover, the application forms cannot ask applicants if they have a history of mental illness or any other disability. Schools must also make sure that all programs that they

SU Nursing Student Handbook

offer, including extracurricular activities, are accessible to students with disabilities. In addition to the architectural access outlines above, the school should provide aids and services necessary for effective communication, and by modifying practices, policies, and procedures.

To ensure that their programs and activities are fully accessible to students with disabilities, colleges and universities are required to provide “reasonable accommodations”. Specifically, they are required to make reasonable modifications in their practices, policies, and procedures, and provide auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, unless to do so would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations they offer, or would result in an undue financial or administrative burden on the institution.

Reasonable accommodations to policies, practices, and procedures include:

- Allowing extra time on the exam
- Allowing a reduced course load and extending the time within which to complete degree requirements’
- Rescheduling classes to an accessible location
- Early enrollment options for students with disabilities to allow time to arrange accommodations’
- Providing students with disabilities with the syllabus prior to the beginning of class
- Allowing students to use tape-recorded lectures.
- Qualified readers, tape-recorded or digitally recorded texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments or learning disabilities
- Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices

Under limited circumstances, the school may refuse to provide a student with accommodations requested. The ADA and Section 504 only require schools to provide accommodations that are reasonable. The school can refuse to provide an accommodation if it can show that:

- Providing the accommodation would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the school
- Providing the accommodation would fundamentally alter the school’s academic program.
- The requested accommodation is of a personal nature (for example, assistance with eating or help with toileting)

Students who feel they will require assistance with any disabilities will be referred to Mrs. Valerie Crusoe. 915-778-4001.

Section 19.05 *Grade Appeals*

All students have the right to appeal their grades. A student who believes the final grade assigned for a course is not appropriate must first contact the instructor who assigned the grade to discuss the matter. The student must schedule this meeting within three (3) days of the grade being submitted. If, following this discussion, the student continues to believe the grade is not

SU Nursing Student Handbook

appropriate, the student may challenge the final course grade assigned in any course by writing a letter to the Associate Dean of Nursing explaining clearly and concisely the reason the grade is not appropriate. Written challenges to grades must be received by the Associate Dean of Nursing within a calendar week of the final discussion between the student and the course instructor. The Associate Dean of Nursing will, whenever possible, issue a written response to the student's appeal within one week of its submission. If the student continues to believe the course grade is unfair, the student may submit a written appeal to the Dean of Nursing. The Dean of Nursing will consider the request and provide a written decision to the student within one week of its receipt. If needed, the appeal can go to the Academic Dean of the university. The Academic Dean's decision is final on grade appeals. If the Dean of Nursing assigned the grade in question, the same procedure is followed using the Academic Deans, whose decision will be final.

Section 19.06 *Grievance Procedure*

The purpose of this student complaint/grievance procedure is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff, and administrators.

Procedures for Initiating Grievance Complaints: This procedure has been established to provide a method to resolve student grievances at the lowest administrative level fairly and expeditiously. For this procedure, grievances are limited to alleged violations of Southwest University policy or procedures by Southwest University or its employees, disputes with faculty, and/or alleged unfair treatment. This method is usually used to appeal a grade the student feels was not justified. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student has allegedly violated the code of conduct. Any student who believes that he/she has been unjustly treated within the academic process may proceed as far as necessary in the steps detailed below:

Step One: The student confers with the involved person in an effort to resolve the issue informally. In the instance of harassment, refer to the section entitled Student Complaint Procedures (Harassment).

Step Two: If the complaint is not resolved at the informal conference, the student may file a written complaint with the appropriate program director. The complaint should be provided in writing and detailed within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint informal conference. The complaint should be in writing and detailed. The program director will also inform the Vice President of the Institution of the status and progress of the complaint at each stage in the process.

Step Three: The program director will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, explain the complaint process to the student, conduct an investigation, and attempt to resolve the complaint. The director should respond to the student with the results of his/her investigation within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint.

- If the complaint is valid, appropriate administrative action will ensue. Such administrative action is not public information, except when disclosure is compelled by law.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Step Four: If the director's written statement is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may appeal to the vice president within five (5) working days of receiving the decision from the program director.

Step Five: the vice president will render a final decision of receiving the appeal. If the vice president was involved with the second step, then an appeal to the University President is permitted. Such an appeal must be filed in writing with the President's office within five (5) working days of the student being notified of the Vice President's decision. The President is to respond to the appeal within ten (10) working days of receiving the written complaint. The President's decision is final.

If a resolution is not reached, the student may submit a written complaint to TWC.

These additional steps can be found in the grievance procedure available in the Southwest University at El Paso Student Handbook at www.southwestuniversity.edu

The procedure regarding student complaints is grouped into two categories:

1. Student grade complaints
2. Student complaints regarding non-academic matters

The purpose of these student procedures is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff and administrative offices concerning the following:

- Discrimination or intimidating treatment, including harassment based on race, gender, age, weight, height, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or disability, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.
- Any other seemingly arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, or unprofessional conduct toward a student or group of students by a faculty or staff member, or an administrative officer of the University

Any and all allegations of program noncompliance with the Standards will be given prompt, fair, and continued consideration until resolved and must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean/Program Director. The written complaint/grievance must include the following: name of student (or other individual) filing allegation, specific Standard of noncompliance, date(s) and example(s) of when and how the program was non-compliant with the Standard, and date of submission. Within ten (10) working days, the Associate Dean/Program Director will provide a written response to the student (or other individual) indicating how the complaint of non-compliance was resolved. The Associate Dean/Program Director will keep a record of all complaints and resolutions of alleged non-compliance.

Section 19.07 *Student Complaints*

The student who has any question, concern, or complaint should immediately contact the Associate Dean/Program Director for an appointment to discuss the matter. If the student remains dissatisfied following discussion with the Associate Dean of Nursing, the student may

SU Nursing Student Handbook

schedule a meeting with the Dean of Nursing to discuss further. If at that point the student still is not satisfied with the resolution, the student may initiate a formal grievance proceeding as outlined in the Southwest University at El Paso Catalog. If the issue remains unresolved at the campus level, the student can contact the accrediting agency (www.abhes.org) to file a formal complaint.

Article XX. Professionalism

Section 20.01 *Expectations*

As students in a professional education program, Nursing students shall conduct themselves in a professional manner during all classes, labs, seminars, and clinical rotations. This includes showing respect for faculty, patients, clinical personnel, and other students; prompt attendance for all classes, labs, and clinical assignments; and avoidance of any behavior that disrupts or interferes with academic or clinical activities.

Professionalism also requires adherence to ethical principles such as accepting responsibility for one's actions; not lying or cheating; not degrading the character of others; and not spreading gossip or evidencing a negative attitude that impacts the confidence, study, or work of others.

All Nursing students share the same goal: to graduate as knowledgeable and competent, entry-level technologists. Each individual receives the same educational opportunities, but each reaches the goal in his or her own way. When problems are encountered, they are dealt with on an individual basis.

The program is not a competition. Each student should be dedicated to his or her own studies and development and not overly concerned about the progress or problems of others. This, however, does not preclude giving help to fellow students who request it; rather, professionalism suggests that assisting others in honest and ethical ways is part of the package of expected skills.

Nursing students are expected to exhibit mature and responsible behavior. If the behavior of another is considered unprofessional, unethical, or annoying, the offended student should first mention it to the offending student. If this fails to bring about an appropriate resolution, the student should then discreetly bring the behavior to the attention of the instructor or Program Director. Problems concerning any aspect of the Program should be handled in this way.

Resolution of classroom or clinical issues will be discussed only with the student or students involved. Other class members must assume that once problems are appropriately reported to the instructor or Associate Dean/Program Director, they are being appropriately handled, even though the resolution may not be apparent and is not made public to other class members.

In the execution of daily duties, the nurse must work as part of a team and must work to the best of his or her abilities. He or she must readily accept duties assigned by supervisors and provide care without discrimination. It is only by demonstrating these same behaviors in the classroom that the student assures program faculty that he or she is capable of exhibiting the same behavior

SU Nursing Student Handbook

in the clinical education setting. Students failing to meet these expectations will not be placed in clinical education sites.

Section 20.02 *Appearance*

A person's appearance is part of the first impression he or she leaves with others, whether it be faculty, clinical supervisors, or patients. Nursing students shall wear the official uniform or approved alternative at all times when attending classes, labs, check-offs, clinical education, and other functions as deemed necessary by course faculty. Failure to do so may result in the student being sent home and receiving a grade of 0 for the day (to include check-offs).

Section 20.03 *Official Uniform*

The uniform consists of a program-designated colored scrub top with the Southwest University at El Paso logo and pants. Students are required to purchase their uniforms at the approved vendor. During clinical education experiences, the student may wear the University scrub suit or scrub suits that meet the dress code of the facility. Until students receive their uniform from Southwest University, they are required to wear solid black scrubs with appropriate footwear.

During cold weather seasons, students are permitted to wear solid black long-sleeve tops under their scrub top and/or the approved scrub jacket with the approved SUEP patch (Jacket must be purchased from the approved vendor). Patches may be purchased at the front desk. For scrub tops and jackets, patches will go on the right sleeve. Students will be provided with a name badge at the start of the program. Students are required to replace name badge if it is lost or damaged.

Footwear consists of solid black leg wear or black socks and shoes with nonskid soles and closed-toe leather or vinyl uppers that are solid black in color without large identifiable logos. Logos must be black as well. (Converse brand shoes are not allowable footwear.) If shoes have laces, the laces must be black as well.

Head coverings of any kind other than surgical caps in the operating room are not part of the official uniform and are not to be worn in the classroom or at clinical settings.

Clinical students must wear the University name badges at all times during all courses, whether on campus or clinical setting.

Failure to wear appropriate attire when attending class or a clinical education course will result in the student being dismissed and marked absent, and will result in disciplinary action.

The uniform is not to be worn for anything other than Southwest University at El Paso didactic or clinical classes. This includes employment at any type of health care facility.

Section 20.04 *Grooming*

As student nurses, students work in close proximity with others. Personal hygiene must be maintained at all times. Hair must be neat and professional. Hair must be pulled away from the face and off the collar. Goatees and mustaches are permitted but must be kept neat and trimmed.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Jewelry must be kept to a minimum for safety and to be consistent with professional appearance.

Long and/or artificial fingernails are prohibited. Research shows that these are a consistent source of infection which constitutes a risk for both the health care worker and his or her patients. Fingernail polish of any kind is prohibited.

Visible body piercing, other than 1 pair of in-ear earrings (Studs), and tattoos are inconsistent with professional appearance and are not acceptable. If the student has visible tattoos, they must be covered prior to entering the clinical site and/or campus; visible piercings beyond 1 pair of earrings (Studs) must be removed. Gauges and/or Plugs are not allowed. Hoop or dangling earrings are not acceptable during clinical education courses and are strongly discouraged while on campus. Policies regarding piercing and tattoos are enforceable both on campus and in clinical situations. Students are required to provide their own materials necessary to cover tattoos.

Failure to adhere to appropriate grooming guidelines when attending class or a clinical education course will result in the student being dismissed and marked absent, and will result in disciplinary action.

Section 20.05 *Language*

Students are expected to use professional language at all times while on campus and in clinical settings. Profane and/or abusive language will not be tolerated in the classroom, in clinical education settings, or on campus within hearing of faculty or administration.

Article XXI. Other Policies

Section 21.01 *Guests*

Children or other guests are not allowed to accompany students to classes, labs, seminars, or clinical assignments, and are not allowed on the premises while students are in class or at a clinical education setting. As there are no childcare areas on campus, children may not be brought to school while parents attend class. Students with dependent children must arrange for appropriate, off-campus childcare while attending classes, labs, seminars, and clinical assignments. Any student who attempts to attend class or a clinical assignment with a child present will be dismissed and marked absent.

Section 21.02 *Food, Drink, *Tobacco*

Eating, drinking, and the use of all tobacco products are prohibited in classrooms and laboratories and are allowed only in designated areas. The only exception is water in a covered bottle. Smoking and other uses of tobacco are allowed only in prescribed areas.

**Please be advised that the use of tobacco will not be permitted at any clinical site in accordance with the rules and regulations of the facilities, as these sites are considered a smoke-free environment.*

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 21.03 *Cell Phones*

Cell phones are not permitted and students may not be in the possession of a cell phone, smart watch, etc. during school and or clinical hours. In the event of an emergency, the student should notify family members and caregivers of the clinical site telephone number and/or the number of the school where the student can be reached. Students found with a cell phone and or smart device will have points deducted from coursework and may be asked to leave the facility, resulting in a grade of 0.

Section 21.04 *Breaks/Vacation/Leaves*

The College of Nursing calendar mirrors the school calendar and is given to all students at the beginning of the program. The only breaks provided to students during the program are a week at Christmas and any breaks that may be allowed by the university between terms or designated holidays. Student progress in the program cannot be interrupted by vacations or other leaves. Considerations cannot be given for vacations or other personal activities during the program. Students who take time off during the term are counted as absent, and the attendance policies found elsewhere in this Handbook and in the University Catalog apply. Medical leaves must be documented by appropriate paperwork. Bereavement leave is granted for up to two days in case of death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, child, parent, sibling, or in-laws. Students in the nursing program who choose to take a leave of absence will be required to reapply to the program during the next application cycle.

Section 21.05 *Access to Program Resources*

Students enrolled in the Program may utilize the classrooms, equipment, and learning materials for study purposes whenever classes are not in session and by arrangement with Program faculty. Students who utilize the facilities are expected to keep the rooms neat and orderly, turn off overhead lights, viewers, etc., and close doors when leaving. Learning materials are to be returned to the instructor or left in the secured rooms. They may not be removed from the classroom or the lab. Library access is available to all students (including nursing program) during school hours.

Article XXII. RN to BSN Program

Section 22.01 *Program Description*

The RN to BSN curriculum is delivered entirely online and comprises didactic, theory-based courses, including the remaining required general education coursework. Throughout the program, students are enrolled in courses that require regular online participation and engagement.

On average, students should anticipate dedicating one to two hours of independent study for every hour of scheduled class participation. All course materials, assignments, and official communications will be distributed during standard weekday hours.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

As part of the program requirements, students must complete a designated number of clinical field experience hours. Detailed information regarding these requirements can be found in the BSN/MSN Post Licensure Practicum and Field Experience Project Manual. Clinical site selection is the responsibility of the student, and there is no requirement to report to campus for clinical activities.

Section 22.02 *Accreditation*

Southwest University at El Paso is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). The University is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission. Southwest University at El Paso is approved by the State of Texas Approving Agency for Veterans Education, qualifying veterans for G.I. Bill benefits.

The Baccalaureate degree program in nursing at Southwest University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Accreditation resources are available at the CCNE website:

<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/>

Section 22.03 *Admission Criteria and Selection Process for Admission of Students RN to BSN*

1. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for admission into the program.
2. Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor
3. Successful completion of a nursing registry unencumbered license (Registered Nurse (RN) license will be verified by the admissions director for successful completion of the NCLEX-RN).
4. 55 Semester hours (82.5 quarter credit hours) of lower division courses and General Education Courses.
5. Additionally, 36 semester hours of registered nursing credits (54 quarter credit hours).

Whereas the RN to BSN Program is six-week terms (12 months) of study.

Attendance for students enrolled in the RN to BSN program will be determined based on the student's participation in online activities and active communication with their instructor/peers.

RN to BSN: Provide employers within our medical community with graduates capable of performing nursing management duties and procedures.

Nursing is an interactive process and is practiced in collaboration with other healthcare providers in the efforts of health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration. Graduates of nursing education programs must be geared to practice competently, apply assessments and evidence-based medicine, and maintain functional competence in nursing practice to achieve collaboration. Additionally, the graduate must value their own competence and be committed to

SU Nursing Student Handbook

the collaborative effort through the use of effective communication skills and respect for other healthcare professionals.

Section 22.04 *RN to BSN Degree Plan*

6 WEEK TERM	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
1	• ENGL 2010 WORKPLACE WRITING • NURS 1010 EVIDENCE BASED NURSING PRACTICE I	3.0 4.5
2	• ENGL 2033 WRITING AND LITERATURE • NURS 1033 NURSING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT I	3.0 4.5
3	• NURS 2010 CONTEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL NURSING I • HIS 2010 HISTORY OF THE U.S. TO 1865	4.5 3.0
4	• NURS 3010 OSHA HEALTHCARE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES I • HIS 2021 HISTORY OF THE U.S. FROM 1865 - PRESENT	4.5 3.0
5	• POLS 2010 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS • NURS 2033 POPULATION HEALTH/COMMUNITY NURSING I	3.0 4.5
6	• NURS 5010 GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT I • POLS 2021 AMERICA GOVT AND POLITICS	4.5 3.0
7	• NURS 4010 POPULATION BASED CARE I • NURS 4033 RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE I	4.5 4.5
8	• NURS 3033 NURSING INFORMATION SYSTEMS & QUALITY MANAGEMENT I • NURS 4045 RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE II	4.5 4.5

RN to BSN NURSING PROGRAM 8 TERMS (6 WEEKS/TERM) = 48 WEEKS

Section 22.05 *Program Outcomes*

<i>BSN Essentials</i>	<i>BSN Program Outcomes</i>
I. Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice	Synthesize theories and concepts from the arts and humanities and the natural and social sciences in professional practice. Apply a process of lifelong learning in the development of one's self, nursing practice, and the profession.
II. Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety	Apply critical thinking, decision making, and clinical reasoning skills in providing quality

SU Nursing Student Handbook

	nursing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.
III. Scholarship for Evidence-Based Practice	Translate research findings to provide evidence-based practice of nursing.
IV. Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology	Manage information and technology to deliver quality patient care in a variety of settings
V. Health Policy, Finance, and Regulatory Environments	Use leadership skills and knowledge of the healthcare, financial, and regulatory systems to advance high quality, safe professional practice
VI. Interprofessional Collaboration and Communication for Improving Healthcare Environments	Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication and collaboration to provide quality, patient-centered care.
VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health	Apply principles of prevention and health promotion in providing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.
VIII. Professionalism and Professional Values	Integrate professional values and ethical, moral, and legal aspects of nursing into one's professional practice.
IX. Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice	Demonstrate evolving competence in a professional role within a dynamic, multicultural, global society.

Section 22.06 *Grading*

Students are evaluated in each class throughout the term by means of tests, quizzes, assignments, participation, attendance, etc. The following grading system will be utilized in the RN to BSN Program for nursing courses:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
A	90-100	4.0	Excellent
B	80-89	3.0	Good
C	75-79	2.0	Satisfactory
**D	65-74	1.0	Unable to progress
F	Below 64	0	Failing

*0.5 will round up to the next numerical grade, and 0.4 will round down to the next lower numerical grade. For example, 91.5 will round to 92, and 91.4 will round down to 91. If at any time during the term a student is failing the theory course, the student will have a formal meeting with the instructor.

**Please note that the grade of “D” does not exist in the nursing courses, as any point value below 75 represents a failure.

ROUNDING OF THE FINAL EXAM SCORE IS NOT PERMITTED

A “C” represents the minimum passing grade and thus the minimum level of knowledge or skill expected.

In didactic and clinical field experience courses, instructors will evaluate the cognitive domain (primarily in classroom courses) and/or the psychomotor domain (primarily in clinical field experience courses) and use that evaluation in assigning a letter grade. In addition, the instructor will evaluate each student’s progress in the affective domain and counsel students who demonstrate less than satisfactory performance in that domain. Students graded as “unsatisfactory” in the affective domain may receive an “F” for the course regardless of performance in the cognitive or psychomotor areas.

Section 22.07 Student Responsibility

(a) Medical Clearance

In the event that a student is unable to participate in online coursework or attend clinical experiences due to a medical reason, the student is required to notify the course instructor in advance of the anticipated absence, whenever possible.

Students may not resume participation in clinical activities by submitting appropriate medical clearance from their licensed healthcare provider. The documentation must confirm that the student is fit to return to both academic and clinical responsibilities without posing a risk to themselves or others.

Given the accelerated nature of the BSN program, extended absences—even when medically excused—can significantly impact a student's ability to meet course objectives. Absences exceeding one week may result in the need to withdraw and re-enroll in the course during its next offering. Such cases will be reviewed by program administration on an individual basis.

Students who are granted clearance to return must meet all academic and clinical safety requirements and be capable of fully engaging in the expectations of the program.

(b) Freedom of Harassment

The program strives to provide an educational environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and conduct that can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive, including sexual harassment. It expects all faculty and students to treat others with dignity, respect, and courtesy.

If a student believes he or she is being subjected to comments or conduct of a sexual nature, where the behavior tends to threaten, offend, or create a hostile environment, the student should immediately report such conduct to the Program Director or, if in a clinical education setting, to the appropriate Clinical Coordinator. If the offense is perceived to be on the part of the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator, then the conduct should be reported to that individual’s immediate supervisor.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

(c) Academic Standing

To be in good standing in any of the Nursing Programs, the student must be in compliance with ALL policies and procedures as listed in this handbook. The student is also advised to be familiar with the University's Standards of Satisfactory Progress, as described in the University Catalog.

The academic standing of each student in the program is reviewed at the conclusion of each term. Students whose Nursing course grades or cumulative GPA are found to be below the minimal acceptable level will be notified that they may not continue in the program until the inadequacy is corrected. All general education courses must be passed with a "C" grade or better for the student to progress into nursing courses. Nursing course(s) completed with grades less than "C" must be repeated before further nursing courses can be taken. Any grade below a "C" is considered an "F" and the course must be retaken. The University will admit students to repeat courses only when space is available. This may result in the student being withdrawn from active enrollment until such time as the course is available to the student.

(d) Academic Advisement

The purpose of academic advising is to assist students with any issues that might impact their success in completing the program. The Dean of Nursing and the Associate Dean/Program Director serve as the academic advisors to all students enrolled in the program. Students may also seek academic advising from student services for general education classes and scheduling conflicts.

(e) Tutoring

Although the ultimate responsibility for learning rests with each student, the faculty is committed to fostering and contributing to student success. Students who encounter difficulty in any class are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to discuss any issues with the instructor. Faculty will tutor students as appropriate at no additional cost to the student. Faculty welcome the opportunity to work individually with students as needed to ensure student success, but an appointment may be required in an effort to meet the needs of all students. Tutoring is available online and can be scheduled through your course instructor at your request.

(f) Withdrawal

Students have the right to withdraw from the program at any time. However, students are required to meet with and discuss such plans with the Associate Dean of Nursing before taking any such action.

To withdraw, the student must submit an email to the Associate Dean of Nursing/ Program Director with their intent to withdraw. In the event of withdrawal, the student will be charged tuition based on the refund policy in the University Catalog. Students who withdraw from a nursing course and intend to return to the nursing program will be required to reapply to the program for the next available start date.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

(g) Graduation Requirements

Southwest University at El Paso awards a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (via the RN to BSN) to students meeting all graduation requirements for each respective program.

The student should carefully read and understand the graduation requirements outlined in the University Catalog. They include completion of all courses in the Nursing Programs with a grade of "C" or better and a GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale upon the completion of all courses, fulfillment of clinical hours, and completion of all nursing required competencies and expected outcomes. Graduates are expected to have an unencumbered RN license during the duration of the program and at the time of graduation.

Section 22.08 *Committee Representation*

Student representation is requested for the below standing faculty committees:

- SUEP CON Advisory Board: Minimum one student volunteer.
- Student Affairs Committee: Minimum one student volunteer.

Section 22.09 *Course/Faculty Evaluation*

Students are given opportunities to evaluate specific courses, theory, and the nursing program as a whole. Constructive student feedback is important in improving the curriculum and instruction. Evaluation forms/links and directions will be provided by the course instructor (s).

Section 22.10 *Textbooks*

Program costs include the required textbooks and other required course materials, which are provided to students at the appropriate time for each course. Many textbooks are used for more than one course and may be used in more than one term. Should a replacement be required for any course materials provided, the student will be charged for the cost of the replacement. Students within the nursing program are required to utilize eBooks with designated resources on the Evolve platform and are expected to bring all necessary technology to all course instructional time periods. Students will be required to have internet access to complete assigned coursework both on and off campus.

Section 22.11 *Readmission*

Any student who wishes to re-enroll in any of the nursing programs following any interruption in enrollment must petition for readmission. The petition consists of a letter (typed, dated, and signed by the student) requesting readmission for a specific term and a statement explaining the reason for the original withdrawal, and a plan for change to resolve the cause(s) of withdrawal. The Dean of Nursing may request that the student support the petition with documents or testimony from witnesses and may require the student to appear for an interview. To be considered for readmission, the student's request letter and statement must be received by the Dean of Nursing no later than the midterm of the term prior to the one in which the student is seeking readmission. The Dean will consider the petition and may accept the petition and allow re-enrollment, accept the petition and allow re-enrollment only under specifically stated

SU Nursing Student Handbook

conditions, or deny the petition. A primary consideration in determining eligibility for readmission will be a careful examination of the reason for the prior withdrawal. Readmission will be offered only in circumstances where it is apparent the reason or reasons for prior withdrawal have been resolved and where it can be determined that the student is now more capable of and more likely to succeed in meeting all Program requirements. If terms or conditions of re-enrollment are given, the student may accept such terms or decline the offer of re-enrollment.

If readmission to the program is offered, the timing will be based on the availability of space at the point in the program where the student is to return. No student progressing normally through the program will be denied a seat in any class or any clinical assignment to accommodate a student returning after withdrawal. If no space is available at the time the student wishes to return, readmission may be denied on that basis. The student may submit a new petition for readmission for a later term.

A student can be readmitted to the program only once. If a student drops out, is dismissed, or fails to maintain good academic standing after readmission, that student will not be considered for readmission again.

Students who have been dismissed from the University as a result of violations of the “Student Code of Conduct” found in the University Catalog; actions that violate law; actions that are disruptive to others or the educational process; actions that violate the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing; physical endangerment of others; theft of University or hospital property; possession of weapons or illegal substances on University or hospital property; criminal activity; taking or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol during classes, labs, seminars or clinical assignments; and actions or omissions that are a reoccurrence of behavior that was a subject of prior verbal or written warnings are not eligible for readmission to the Program.

Section 22.12 *Records*

Academic and health information pertinent to each nursing student is maintained by the Nursing program in separate files for three years after the student graduates or withdraws from the program, although the records are only kept on campus while the student is actively enrolled. Records that are not on campus will be stored in accordance with usual university policy.

Students may access their academic and health files by arranging an appointment with Student Services. No copy of health records is provided to students. Students are encouraged to retain a personal copy of their health records. Students are expected to keep all file information current in case emergency notification becomes necessary. Student files are stored to protect the file and the information contained in the file. Any public inquiries concerning a student will be referred to the Program Coordinator.

Academic records may include:

- Application(s)/Transcripts

SU Nursing Student Handbook

- HIPAA or HESI test scores
- CPR training documentation
- Correspondence to and from the student
- Clinical evaluation tools of Conference forms
- Confidentiality forms
- Licensure/certification
- Probation forms
- Student information sheet
- Documentation of any requirements of affiliating institutions

Health records may include:

- Physical examination form
- Immunization records
- Correspondence to and from the student or health care provider(s)
- Medical releases

Section 22.13 *Social Media*

Students enrolled in the College of Nursing are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality at all times—including on social media platforms. Inappropriate use of social media can violate privacy laws, breach patient confidentiality, and damage the reputation of the student, the College, and affiliated clinical partners.

Students are strictly prohibited from:

- Posting or sharing any patient information or images, even if de-identified
- Sharing photos, videos, or content from clinical settings without express written permission
- Discussing specific patient cases or clinical experiences in a way that could be interpreted as unprofessional or unethical
- Making discriminatory comments, harassing, or threatening to others, including peers, faculty, staff, or clinical personnel
- Using social media to represent or speak on behalf of the College of Nursing without prior authorization

Students must:

- Follow all HIPAA regulations and privacy laws
- Use good judgment when posting publicly or privately
- Understand that online content is permanent and may impact future employment, licensure, and academic standing

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 22.14 *Academic Integrity and Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence*

Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation and an essential component of professional behavior within the College of Nursing. Students are responsible for demonstrating honesty, accountability, and ethical conduct in all academic work. All written assignments must be submitted through Turnitin software, and failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

The College's plagiarism policy requires that all written work maintain a similarity index of less than 20%, ensuring original scholarship and proper attribution of sources.

In addition, students must use artificial intelligence (AI) tools—such as ChatGPT and other AI writing assistants—appropriately and ethically. AI may be used only when explicitly permitted by faculty and must be fully disclosed when incorporated into academic work. AI-generated content must not replace the student's own critical thinking, clinical judgment, or original analysis. Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI to produce academic work is considered a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include failure of the assignment or dismissal from the program.

Section 22.15 *Program Progression*

To ensure successful progression through the nursing program, the student must:

- Complete pre-requisite courses before progressing in the program.
- Follow and receive credit for the courses as listed in the nursing program.
- Be aware that failure of any nursing course requires the course to be repeated without progression to the next course until the failed course is completed with a grade of 75 or above (and if applicable, to include an exam average of 75).
- A student who withdraws from a general education, pre-requisite, or co-requisite course during the term is not eligible for progression to the next term until that course is completed.
- Achieve a minimum grade of "C" in all courses in the degree plan.
- Satisfactorily meet course objectives.

Article XXIII. Student Discipline

Section 23.01 *Expectations*

Nursing students are expected to adhere to the "Student Code of Conduct" and all other University policies, rules, and regulations as published in the Southwest University at El Paso catalog and/or student handbooks. Violations of the code of conduct on the University campus, at any clinical education setting, or during any University-sponsored event shall be subject to discipline.

Students are required to have a 75% or better average to progress within the curriculum.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 23.02 *Disciplinary Actions*

Students who violate policy or procedure established by the CON or Southwest University at El Paso shall be subject to disciplinary action.

There are four levels of disciplinary actions.

1. verbal warning
2. written warning
3. suspension from the Program
4. dismissal from the Program

The type of action is dependent on the nature of the offense and the circumstances under which it occurred. This means that severe offenses can result in level two or three actions, whether or not it is a first offense, and whether or not there have been any prior efforts to advise the student concerning the behavior.

Verbal warnings are used to call a student's attention to minor offenses. Once warned, it is expected that the student will avoid further violations. These warnings are recorded on a counseling form that is signed by the Dean of Nursing or individual course faculty.

Written warnings are used for more serious offenses or instances when a student fails to heed a prior verbal warning. A written warning consists of a form or letter to the student from the Dean of Nursing or Clinical Coordinator. The form or letter specifies the violation and may set forth specific standards of performance or conduct the student must maintain in order to avoid further disciplinary action. A copy of the warning letter or form is placed in the student's file until graduation. The program reserves the right to dismiss any student who accumulates more than two (2) write-ups.

Section 23.03 *Dismissal*

Students shall be dismissed from the nursing programs for serious or repeated violations of CON or University policies and procedures, including policies regarding attendance or tardiness.

Although clinical affiliates or affiliate personnel cannot dismiss students from the program, they do have the right to ask for the removal of a student if, in their opinion, the student is not performing up to his or her level of education or if the student fails to act professionally. If a student is asked to leave a clinical site prior to the end of a term, the program cannot guarantee another placement that allows the student to successfully complete the term. The student will receive another placement as soon as one becomes available, but the out-of-sequence student will be lowest in priority for clinical assignment. If a student is asked to leave or removed from a clinical site, the student may be dismissed from the Program.

Section 23.04 *Student Safety, Health, and Welfare*

The School of Nursing takes the safety and welfare of its students seriously. The following policies and procedures are part of faculty efforts to assure student safety.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Section 23.05 *Nursing/Patient Safety*

Students in any of the Nursing programs shall practice appropriate safety procedures in protecting patients, themselves, and others from unnecessary harm and exposures at all times.

Article XXIV. Student Rights

Section 24.01 *Non-discrimination*

The Nursing Programs adhere to institutional policy regarding non-discrimination. No person shall be excluded from or denied benefits of any program or activity based on sex, color, race, creed, age, religion, natural or regional origin. In addition, no qualified handicapped person shall be excluded from or denied the benefits of any program or activity as long as he/she meets the technical standards as described on page in this Handbook. Admission procedures and ongoing operations are conducted in accordance with this policy. Each of the recognized clinical education settings also supports non-discrimination.

Any student who feels he or she is being discriminated against in violation of this policy is encouraged to bring the complaint to the immediate attention of the Dean of Nursing.

Section 24.02 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

The Nursing Programs adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Any student requiring accommodation for a documented disability must meet with the Program Director to request that accommodation at the beginning of the program. The student will be required to provide documentation of the disability from an appropriate health care provider. Accommodating Students with Disabilities.

Two primary federal laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination in higher educational settings like colleges and universities are the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act). Title III of the ADA covers private colleges and vocational schools. If a school receives federal dollars, including federal financial assistance, regardless of whether it is private or public, it is also covered by the Rehabilitation Act. Because SU receives federal financial assistance, it must comply with both the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA and the Rehabilitation Act prohibit schools from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Moreover, the ADA gives students with disabilities the right to the same goods, services, facilities, privileges, and advantages as nondisabled students, in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Schools cannot have eligibility requirements that screen out people with physical or mental disabilities. Moreover, the application forms cannot ask applicants if they have a history of mental illness or any other disability. Schools must also make sure that all programs that they offer, including extracurricular activities, are accessible to students with disabilities. In addition to the architectural access outlines above, the school should provide aids and services necessary for effective communication, and by modifying practices, policies, and procedures.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

To ensure that their programs and activities are fully accessible to students with disabilities, colleges and universities are required to provide “reasonable accommodations”. Specifically, they are required to make reasonable modifications in their practices, policies, and procedures, and provide auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, unless to do so would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations they offer, or would result in an undue financial or administrative burden on the institution.

Reasonable accommodations to policies, practices, and procedures include:

- Allowing extra time on exams
- Allowing a reduced course load and extending the time within which to complete degree requirements’
- Rescheduling classes to an accessible location;
- Early enrollment options for students with disabilities to allow time to arrange accommodations’
- Providing students with disabilities with the syllabus prior to the beginning of class
- Allowing students to use tape-recorded lectures.
- Qualified readers, tape-recorded or digitally recorded texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments or learning disabilities
- Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices

Under limited circumstances, the school may refuse to provide a student with the accommodations requested. The ADA and Section 504 only require schools to provide accommodations that are reasonable. The school can refuse to provide an accommodation if it can show that:

- Providing the accommodation would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the school
- Providing the accommodation would fundamentally alter the school’s academic program
- The requested accommodation is of a personal nature (for example, assistance with eating or help with toileting)

Section 24.03 *HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)* *Federal Law*

This law protects patients’ rights regarding their health information, including the right to review it and make decisions about how it is used and disclosed, and requires health care providers to implement safeguards to ensure the privacy of patient’s health information.

PHI = Protected Health Information. Protected health information (PHI) is confidential and protected from access, use, or disclosure except to authorized individuals requiring access to such information. Attempting to obtain or use, actually obtaining or using, or assisting others to

SU Nursing Student Handbook

obtain or use PHI, when unauthorized or improper, will result in counseling and/or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

Students are not to write the name of the patient, as it is acceptable to write the initials. Do not take any of the patients' PHI home.

Section 24.04 *Grade Appeals*

All students have the right to appeal their grades. A student who believes the final grade assigned for a course is not appropriate must first contact the instructor who assigned the grade to discuss the matter. The student must schedule this meeting within three (3) days of the grade being submitted. If, following this discussion, the student continues to believe the grade is not appropriate, the student may challenge the final course grade assigned in any course by writing a letter to the Associate Dean of Nursing explaining clearly and concisely the reason the grade is not appropriate. Written challenges to grades must be received by the Associate Dean of Nursing within a calendar week of the final discussion between the student and the course instructor. The Associate Dean of Nursing will, whenever possible, issue a written response to the student's appeal within one week of its submission. If the student continues to believe the course grade is unfair, the student may submit a written appeal to the Dean of Nursing. The Dean of Nursing will consider the request and provide a written decision to the student within one week of its receipt. If needed, the appeal can go to the Academic Dean of the university. The Academic Dean's decision is final concerning grade appeals. If the Dean of Nursing assigned the grade in question, the same procedure is followed using the Academic Deans, whose decision will be final.

Section 24.05 *Grievance Procedure*

The purpose of this student complaint/grievance procedure is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff, and administrators.

Procedures for Initiating Grievance Complaints: This procedure has been established to provide a method to resolve students' grievances at the lowest administrative level fairly and expeditiously. For this procedure, grievances are limited to alleged violations of Southwest University policy or procedures by Southwest University or its employees, disputes with faculty, and/or alleged unfair treatment. This method is usually used to appeal a grade the student feels was not justified. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student has allegedly violated the code of conduct. Any student who believes that he/she has been unjustly treated within the academic process may proceed as far as necessary in the steps detailed below:

Step One: The student confers with the involved person in an effort to resolve the issue informally. In the instance of harassment, refer to the section entitled Student Complaint Procedures (Harassment).

Step Two: If the complaint is not resolved at the informal conference, the student may file a written complaint with the appropriate program director/Dean. The complaint should be provided in writing and detailed within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint informal

SU Nursing Student Handbook

conference. The complaint should be in writing and detailed. The program director/Dean will also inform the Vice President of the Institution of the status and progress of the complaint at each stage in the process.

Step Three: The program director/Dean will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, explain the complaint process to the student, conduct an investigation, and attempt to resolve the complaint. The director should respond to the student with the results of his/her investigation within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint.

If the complaint is valid, appropriate administrative action will ensue. Such administrative action is not public information, except when disclosure is compelled by law.

Step Four: If the director's/dean's written statement is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may appeal to the vice president within five (5) working days of receiving the decision from the program director.

Step Five: The vice president will render a final decision on receiving the appeal. If the vice president was involved with the second step, then an appeal to the University President is permitted. Such an appeal must be filed in writing with the President's office within five (5) working days of the student being notified of the Vice President's decision. The President is to respond to the appeal within ten (10) working days of receiving the written complaint. The President's decision is final.

If a resolution is not reached, the student may submit a written complaint to TWC.

These additional steps can be found in the grievance procedure available in the Southwest University at El Paso Student Handbook at <http://www.southwestuniversity.edu/>

The procedure regarding student complaints is grouped into two categories:

1. Student grade complaints
2. Student complaints regarding non-academic matters

The purpose of these student procedures is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff, and administrative offices concerning the following:

- Discrimination or intimidating treatment, including harassment based on race, gender, age, weight, height, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or disability, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.
- Any other seemingly arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, or unprofessional conduct toward a student or group of students by a faculty or staff member, or an administrative officer of the University.

Any and all allegations of program noncompliance with the Standards will be given prompt, fair, and continued consideration until resolved and must be submitted in writing to the Program Director. The written complaint/grievance must include the following: name of student (or other

SU Nursing Student Handbook

individual) filing allegation, specific Standard of noncompliance, date(s) and example(s) of when and how the program was non-compliant with the Standard, and date of submission. Within ten (10) working days, the Program Director will provide a written response to the student (or other individual) indicating how the complaint of non-compliance was resolved. The Program Director will keep a record of all complaints and resolutions of alleged non-compliance.

Section 24.06 *Student Complaints*

The student who has any question, concern, or complaint should immediately contact the Associate Dean of Nursing for an appointment to discuss the matter. If the student remains dissatisfied following discussion with the Associate Dean of Nursing, they may request an appointment with the Dean of Nursing. If at that time the student is still not satisfied with the outcome, the student may initiate a formal grievance proceeding as outlined in the Southwest University at El Paso Catalog. If the issue remains unresolved at the campus level, the student can contact the accrediting agency (www.abhes.org) to file a formal complaint.

Article XXV. Professionalism

Section 25.01 *Expectations*

As students in a professional education program, Nursing students shall professionally conduct themselves during all classes, labs, seminars, and clinical rotations, regardless of platform (Distance Education or Residential). This includes showing respect for faculty, patients, clinical personnel, and other students; prompt attendance for all classes, labs, and clinical assignments; and avoidance of any behavior that disrupts or interferes with academic or clinical activities.

Professionalism also requires adherence to ethical principles such as accepting responsibility for one's actions; not lying or cheating; not degrading the character of others; and not spreading gossip or evidencing a negative attitude that impacts the confidence, study, or work of others.

All Nursing students share the same goal: to graduate as knowledgeable and competent, entry-level technologists. Each individual receives the same educational opportunities, but each reaches the goal in his or her own way. When problems are encountered, they are dealt with on an individual basis.

The program is not a competition. Each student should be dedicated to his or her own studies and development and not overly concerned about the progress or problems of others. This, however, does not preclude giving help to fellow students who request it; rather, professionalism suggests that assisting others in honest and ethical ways is part of the package of expected skills.

Nursing students are expected to exhibit mature and responsible behavior. If the behavior of another is considered unprofessional, unethical, or annoying, the offended student should first mention it to the offending student. If this fails to bring about an appropriate resolution, the student should then discreetly bring the behavior to the attention of the faculty or the Dean of Nursing. Problems concerning any aspect of the Program should be handled in this way.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Resolution of classroom or clinical issues will be discussed only with the student or students involved. Other class members must assume that once problems are appropriately reported to the faculty or Dean of Nursing, they are being appropriately handled, even though the resolution may not be apparent and is not made public to other class members.

In the execution of daily duties, the nurse must work as part of a team and must work to the best of his or her abilities. He or she must readily accept duties assigned by supervisors and provide care without discrimination. It is only by demonstrating these same behaviors in the classroom that the student assures program faculty that he or she is capable of exhibiting the same behavior in the clinical education setting. Students failing to meet these expectations will not be placed in clinical education sites.

Section 25.02 *Breaks/Vacation/Leaves*

The Nursing program calendar mirrors the school calendar and is given to all students at the beginning of the program. The only breaks provided to students during the program are a week at Christmas and any breaks that may be allowed by the university between terms or designated holidays.

Student progress in the program cannot be interrupted by vacations or other leaves.

Considerations cannot be given for vacations or other personal activities during the program. Students who take time off during the term are counted as absent, and the attendance policies found elsewhere in this Handbook and in the University Catalog apply. Medical leaves must be documented by appropriate paperwork. Bereavement leave is granted for up to two days in case of death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, child, parent, sibling, or in-laws. Students in the nursing program who choose to take a leave of absence will be required to reapply to the program during the next application cycle.

Section 25.03 *Access to Program Resources*

Students enrolled in the Program may utilize the classrooms, equipment, and learning materials for study purposes whenever classes are not in session and by arrangement with Program faculty.

Students who utilize the facilities are expected to keep the rooms neat and orderly, turn off overhead lights, viewers, etc., and close doors when leaving. Learning materials are to be returned to the instructor or left in the secured rooms. They may not be removed from the classroom or the lab.

- Library access is available to all students (including nursing program) during school hours as well as online for those students not able to travel to campus.
- It Support is provided online for all students experiencing technical issues and can be accessed at the Southwest University website.

Article XXVI. MSN Program

Section 26.01 *Program Description*

The MSN program is delivered entirely online and features advanced, theory-based coursework with a strong emphasis on nursing leadership, systems thinking, and community-focused care. Designed to prepare nurses for influential roles in population health, public health systems, and healthcare administration, the program equips students with the skills needed to lead change and improve outcomes at the community and organizational levels. Students are enrolled in courses that require consistent online engagement and active participation throughout each academic term.

Graduate-level study demands a significant commitment; students should expect to dedicate an average of one to two hours of independent study for every hour of scheduled course engagement. All course materials, assignments, and official communications will be distributed during standard weekday hours.

In addition to didactic coursework, students are required to complete a specified number of clinical or practicum hours aligned with their chosen capstone project. Comprehensive information regarding clinical expectations, documentation, and policies can be found in the *BSN/MSN Post Licensure Practicum and Field Experience Project Manual*. Students are responsible for identifying and securing appropriate clinical placement sites, which do not require on-campus attendance.

Section 26.02 *Accreditation*

Southwest University at El Paso is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). The University is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission. Southwest University at El Paso is approved by the State of Texas Approving Agency for Veterans Education, qualifying veterans for G.I. Bill benefits.

The Master's Degree program at Southwest University is pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

Accreditation resources are available at the CCNE website: <http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/>

Section 26.03 *Admission Criteria and Selection Process for Admission of Students*

MSN

1. Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor.
2. Hold a valid, unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license from the state of current practice.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

3. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or equivalent education at a foreign institution
4. Students must submit an academic transcript to evidence the baccalaureate.
 - A baccalaureate from an institution outside of the United States and its territories must be evaluated by a credential evaluation service provider. The provider must have published standards for membership, affiliations to U.S.-based international higher education associations and be linked to and used by federal agencies, state agencies, educational institutions, and employers (e.g., NACES and AICE).

Whereas the MSN Program is six-week terms (22 months) of study.

Attendance for students enrolled in the MSN program will be determined based on the student's participation in online activities and active communication with their instructor/peers.

MSN: To prepare advanced nursing professionals who are equipped to assume leadership roles within healthcare systems and community-based settings, contributing to the delivery of high-quality, coordinated, and population-centered care.

Nursing at the graduate level is a dynamic, collaborative process that involves leadership in health promotion, disease prevention, and system-level health improvement. Graduates of the MSN program are expected to practice competently within complex healthcare environments, applying advanced assessments, evidence-based interventions, and population health principles. They are prepared to lead interdisciplinary teams, influence policy, and drive system changes that promote equitable health outcomes.

In addition, MSN graduates are expected to demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning, value interprofessional collaboration, and apply effective communication strategies. They are leaders who respect and integrate the expertise of other healthcare professionals while advancing their own role in transforming healthcare delivery across communities.

Article XXVII. MSN Degree Plan

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY AT EL PASO MASTER'S DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM 14 TERMS (6 WEEKS/TERM)		
6 WEEK TERMS	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 5000 Advancing Professional Roles and Values	6.0
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RES 5000 Research Methodology	6.0
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HA 6400 Data Management Analytics in Healthcare	6.0
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 5400 Collaborative Leadership• HA 5000 Leadership and Management for Diverse Healthcare Systems	6.0

SU Nursing Student Handbook

5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGT 5100 Advanced Organizational Human Resources Management 	6.0
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA 6100 Population Healthcare Population 	6.0
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6000 Informatics for Transforming Nursing Care 	6.0
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA 6300 Organizational Finance in Healthcare 	6.0
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6000 Holistic Health Assessment of Populations and Communities • HA 6000 Challenges in Community Healthcare 	6.0
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6100 Global Health for Nurse Leaders 	6.0
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6300 Quality Improvement in Healthcare 	6.0
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA 5100 Innovating Solutions in Healthcare Leadership 	6.0
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6600 Policy and Advocacy for Quality in Healthcare 	6.0
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 6700 Nursing Capstone 	6.0

MSN NURSING PROGRAM 14 TERMS (6 WEEKS/TERM) = 84 WEEKS

Section 27.01 *Program Outcomes*

MSN Program Learning Outcomes Domains	Program Outcomes
I. Knowledge for Nursing Practice	Integrate and apply nursing knowledge, ways of knowing, and interdisciplinary insights to guide clinical judgment and foster innovation in nursing practice.
II. Person-Centered Care	Deliver holistic, individualized, and evidence-based care that respects the diverse needs, values, and preferences of individuals, families, and communities.
III. Population Health	Collaborate with diverse stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that improve equitable health outcomes across populations and address public health challenges.
IV. Scholarship for Nursing Discipline	Engage in the generation, synthesis, translation, and dissemination of nursing knowledge to improve health outcomes and transform healthcare systems.
V. Quality and Safety	Employ principles of safety and improvement science to enhance healthcare quality and minimize risks to patients, providers, and systems.
VI. Interprofessional Partnerships	Intentionally collaborate with interprofessional teams, patients, families, and stakeholders to optimize care, enhance healthcare experiences, and strengthen outcomes.
VII. Systems-Based Practice	Effectively respond to and lead within complex healthcare systems, coordinating resources to provide equitable, safe, and high-quality care to diverse populations.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

VIII. Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	Utilize informatics processes and healthcare technologies to support decision-making, improve care delivery, and uphold professional standards of safety, quality, and efficiency.
IX. Professionalism	Cultivate a professional nursing identity characterized by accountability, ethical comportment, collaboration, and adherence to nursing's core values.
X. Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development	Engage in reflective practices and developmental activities that foster personal resilience, professional growth, and leadership expertise to adapt to the evolving demands of healthcare

Article XXVIII. Grading

Students are evaluated in each class throughout the term by means of tests, quizzes, assignments, participation, attendance, etc. The following grading system will be utilized in the MSN Program for nursing courses:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
A	90 – 100	4.0	Excellent
B	80 – 89	3.0	Good
C	75 – 79	2.0	Satisfactory
**D	65 – 74	1.0	Unable to Progress
F	Below 64	0	Failing

*0.5 will round up to the next numerical grade, and 0.4 will round down to the next lower numerical grade. For example, 91.5 will round to 92, and 91.4 will round down to 91. If at any time during the term a student is failing the theory course, the student will have a formal meeting with the instructor.

****Please note that the grade of “D” does not exist in the nursing courses as any point value below 75 represents a failure.**

ROUNDING OF THE FINAL EXAM SCORE IS NOT PERMITTED

A “C” represents the minimum passing grade and thus the minimum level of knowledge or skill expected.

In didactic and clinical field experience courses, instructors will evaluate the cognitive domain (primarily in classroom courses) and/or the psychomotor domain (primarily in clinical field experience courses) and use that evaluation in assigning a letter grade. In addition, the instructor will evaluate each student's progress in the affective domain and counsel students who demonstrate less than satisfactory performance in that domain. Students graded as “unsatisfactory” in the affective domain may receive an “F” for the course regardless of performance in the cognitive or psychomotor areas.

Article XXIX. Student Responsibility

Section 29.01 *Medical Clearance*

In the event that a student is unable to participate in online coursework or attend clinical experiences due to a medical reason, the student is required to notify the course instructor in advance of the anticipated absence, whenever possible.

Students may not resume participation in clinical activities by submitting appropriate medical clearance from their licensed healthcare provider. The documentation must confirm that the student is fit to return to both academic and clinical responsibilities without posing a risk to themselves or others.

Given the accelerated nature of the MSN program, extended absences—even when medically excused—can significantly impact a student's ability to meet course objectives. Absences exceeding one week may result in the need to withdraw and re-enroll in the course during its next offering. Such cases will be reviewed by program administration on an individual basis.

Students who are granted clearance to return must meet all academic and clinical safety requirements and be capable of fully engaging in the expectations of the program.

Section 29.02 *Freedom of Harassment*

The program strives to provide an educational environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and conduct that can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive, including sexual harassment. It expects all faculty and students to treat others with dignity, respect, and courtesy.

If a student believes he or she is being subjected to comments or conduct of a sexual nature, where the behavior tends to threaten, offend, or create a hostile environment, the student should immediately report such conduct to the Program Director or, if in a clinical education setting, to the appropriate Clinical Coordinator. If the offense is perceived to be on the part of the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator, then the conduct should be reported to that individual's immediate supervisor.

Section 29.03 *Academic Standing*

To be in good standing in any of the Nursing Programs, the student must be in compliance with ALL policies and procedures as listed in this handbook. The student is also advised to be familiar with the University's Standards of Satisfactory Progress, as described in the University Catalog.

The academic standing of each student in the program is reviewed at the conclusion of each term. Students whose Nursing course grades or cumulative GPA are found to be below the minimal acceptable level will be notified that they may not continue in the program until the inadequacy is corrected. All general education courses must be passed with a "C" grade or better for the student to progress into nursing courses. Nursing course(s) completed with grades less than "C" must be repeated before further nursing courses can be taken. Any grade below a "C" is considered an "F" and the course must be retaken. The University will admit students to repeat

SU Nursing Student Handbook

courses only when space is available. This may result in the student being withdrawn from active enrollment until such time as the course is available to the student.

Section 29.04 *Academic Advisement*

The purpose of academic advising is to assist students with any issues that might impact their success in completing the program. The Dean of Nursing and the Associate Dean/Program Director serve as the academic advisors to all students enrolled in the program. Students may also seek academic advising from student services for general education classes and scheduling conflicts.

Section 29.05 *Tutoring*

Although the ultimate responsibility for learning rests with each student, the faculty is committed to fostering and contributing to student success. Students who encounter difficulty in any class are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to discuss any issues with the instructor. Faculty will tutor students as appropriate at no additional cost to the student. Faculty welcome the opportunity to work individually with students as needed to ensure student success, but an appointment may be required in an effort to meet the needs of all students. Tutoring is available online and can be scheduled through your course instructor at your request.

Section 29.06 *Withdrawal*

Students have the right to withdraw from the program at any time. However, students are required to meet with and discuss such plans with the Associate Dean of Nursing before taking any such action.

To withdraw, the student must submit a withdrawal form to the Registrar's office. In the event of withdrawal, the student will be charged tuition based on the refund policy in the University Catalog. Students who withdraw from a nursing course and intend to return to the nursing program will be required to reapply to the program for the next available start date.

Section 29.07 *Graduation Requirements*

Southwest University at El Paso awards a Master of Science in Nursing degree to students meeting all graduation requirements for each respective program.

The student should carefully read and understand the graduation requirements outlined in the University Catalog. They include completion of all courses in the Nursing Programs with a grade of "C" or better and a GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale upon the completion of all courses, fulfillment of clinical hours, and completion of all nursing required competencies and expected outcomes. Graduates are expected to have an unencumbered RN license during the duration of the program and at the time of graduation.

Section 29.08 *Committee Representation*

Student representation is requested for the below standing faculty committees:

- SUEP CON Advisory Board: Minimum one student volunteer.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

- Student Affairs Committee: Minimum one student volunteer.

Section 29.09 *Course/Faculty Evaluation*

Students are given opportunities to evaluate specific courses, theory, and the nursing program as a whole. Constructive student feedback is important in improving the curriculum and instruction. Evaluation forms/links and directions will be provided by the course instructor(s)

Section 29.10 *Textbooks*

Program costs include the required textbooks and other required course materials, which are provided to students at the appropriate time for each course. Many textbooks are used for more than one course and may be used in more than one term. Should a replacement be required for any course materials provided, the student will be charged for the cost of the replacement. Students within the nursing program are required to utilize eBooks with designated resources on the Evolve platform and are expected to bring all necessary technology to all course instructional time periods. Students will be required to have internet access to complete assigned coursework both on and off campus.

Section 29.11 *Readmission*

Any student who wishes to re-enroll in any of the nursing programs following any interruption in enrollment must petition for readmission. The petition consists of a letter (typed, dated, and signed by the student) requesting readmission for a specific term and a statement explaining the reason for the original withdrawal and a plan for change to resolve the cause(s) of withdrawal. The Dean of Nursing may request that the student support the petition with documents or testimony from witnesses and may require the student to appear for an interview. To be considered for readmission, the student's request letter and statement must be received by the Dean of Nursing no later than the midterm of the term prior to the one in which the student is seeking readmission. The Dean will consider the petition and may accept the petition and allow re-enrollment, accept the petition and allow re-enrollment only under specifically stated conditions, or deny the petition. A primary consideration in determining eligibility for readmission will be a careful examination of the reason for the prior withdrawal. Readmission will be offered only in circumstances where it is apparent the reason or reasons for prior withdrawal have been resolved and where it can be determined that the student is now more capable of and more likely to succeed in meeting all Program requirements. If terms or conditions of re-enrollment are given, the student may accept such terms or decline the offer of re-enrollment.

If readmission to the program is offered, the timing will be based on availability of space at the point in the program where the student is to return. No student progressing normally through the program will be denied a seat in any class or any clinical assignment to accommodate a student returning after withdrawal. If no space is available at the time the student wishes to return, readmission may be denied on that basis. The student may submit a new petition for readmission for a later term.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

A student can be readmitted to the program only once. If a student drops out, is dismissed, or fails to maintain good academic standing after readmission, that student will not be considered for readmission again.

Students who have been dismissed from the University as a result of violations of the “Student Code of Conduct” found in the University Catalog; actions that violate law; actions that are disruptive to others or the educational process; actions that violate the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing; physical endangerment of others; theft of University or hospital property; possession of weapons or illegal substances on University or hospital property; criminal activity; taking or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol during classes, labs, seminars or clinical assignments; and actions or omissions that are a reoccurrence of behavior that was a subject of prior verbal or written warnings are not eligible for readmission to the Program.

Section 29.12 *Records*

Academic and health information pertinent to each nursing student is maintained by the Nursing program in separate files for three years after the student graduates or withdraws from the program, although the records are only kept on campus while the student is actively enrolled. Records that are not on campus will be stored in accordance with usual university policy.

Students may access their academic and health files by arranging an appointment with Student Services. No copy of health records is provided to students. Students are encouraged to retain a personal copy of their health records. Students are expected to keep all file information current in case emergency notification becomes necessary. Student files are stored to protect the file and the information contained in the file. Any public inquiries concerning a student will be referred to the Program Coordinator.

Academic records may include:

- Application(s)/Transcripts
- HIPAA or HESI test scores
- CPR training documentation
- Correspondence to and from the student
- Clinical evaluation tools
- Conference forms
- Confidentiality forms
- Licensure/certification
- Probation forms
- Student information sheet
- Documentation of any requirements of affiliating institutions

Health records may include:

- Physical examination form

SU Nursing Student Handbook

- Immunization records
- Correspondence to and from the student or health care provider(s)
- Medical releases

Section 29.13 *Social Media*

Students enrolled in the College of Nursing are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and confidentiality at all times—including on social media platforms. Inappropriate use of social media can violate privacy laws, breach patient confidentiality, and damage the reputation of the student, the College, and affiliated clinical partners.

Students are strictly prohibited from:

- Posting or sharing any patient information or images, even if de-identified
- Sharing photos, videos, or content from clinical settings without express written permission
- Discussing specific patient cases or clinical experiences in a way that could be interpreted as unprofessional or unethical
- Making discriminatory comments, harassing, or threatening to others, including peers, faculty, staff, or clinical personnel
- Using social media to represent or speak on behalf of the College of Nursing without prior authorization

Students must:

- Follow all HIPAA regulations and privacy laws
- Use good judgment when posting publicly or privately
- Understand that online content is permanent and may impact future employment, licensure, and academic standing

Section 29.14 *Academic Integrity*

Academic integrity is an essential component of professional behavior in health sciences programs. Health science students are expected to possess a sense of responsible professional behavior and accountability for their actions. Students are required to submit all written assignments via the Turn It In software. Students not utilizing this software will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment. The school's plagiarism policy states that all written assignments must have less than a 20% similarity percentage.

Section 29.15 *Program Progression*

To ensure successful progression through the nursing program, the student must:

- Complete pre-requisite courses before progressing in the program.
- Follow and receive credit for the courses as listed in the nursing program.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

- Be aware that failure of any nursing course requires the course to be repeated without progression to the next course until the failed course is completed with a grade of 75 or above (and if applicable, to include an exam average of 75).
- A student who withdraws from a general education, pre-requisite, or co-requisite course during the term is not eligible for progression to the next term until that course is completed.
- Achieve a minimum grade of “C” in all courses in the degree plan.
- Satisfactorily meet course objectives.

Article XXX. Student Discipline

Section 30.01 *Expectations*

Nursing students are expected to adhere to the “Student Code of Conduct” and all other University policies, rules, and regulations as published in the Southwest University at El Paso catalog and/or student handbooks. Violations of the code of conduct on the University campus, at any clinical education setting, or during any University-sponsored event shall be subject to discipline.

Students are required to have a 75% or better average to progress within the curriculum.

Section 30.02 *Disciplinary Actions*

Students who violate policy or procedure established by the CON or Southwest University at El Paso shall be subject to disciplinary action.

There are four levels of disciplinary actions.

1. Verbal warning
2. Written warning
3. Suspension from the Program
4. Dismissal from the Program

The type of action is dependent on the nature of the offense and the circumstances under which it occurred. This means that severe offenses can result in level two or three actions, whether or not it is a first offense, and whether or not there have been any prior efforts to advise the student concerning the behavior.

Verbal warnings are used to call a student’s attention to minor offenses. Once warned, it is expected that the student will avoid further violations. These warnings are recorded on a counseling form that is signed by the Dean of Nursing or the individual course faculty.

Written warnings are used for more serious offenses or instances when a student fails to heed a prior verbal warning. A written warning consists of a form or letter to the student from the Dean of Nursing or Clinical Coordinator. The form or letter specifies the violation and may set forth specific standards of performance or conduct that the student must maintain in order to avoid further disciplinary action. A copy of the warning letter or form is placed in the student’s file

SU Nursing Student Handbook

until graduation. The program reserves the right to dismiss any student who accumulates more than two (2) write-ups.

Section 30.03 *Dismissal*

Students shall be dismissed from the nursing programs for serious or repeated violations of CON or University policies and procedures, including policies regarding attendance or tardiness.

Although clinical affiliates or affiliate personnel cannot dismiss students from the program, they do have the right to ask for the removal of a student if, in their opinion, the student is not performing up to his or her level of education or if the student fails to act professionally. If a student is asked to leave a clinical site prior to the end of a term, the program cannot guarantee another placement that allows the student to successfully complete the term. The student will receive another placement as soon as one becomes available, but the out-of-sequence student will be lowest in priority for clinical assignment. ***If a student is asked to leave or removed from a clinical site, the student may be dismissed from the Program.***

Section 30.04 *Student Safety, Health, and Welfare*

The School of Nursing takes the safety and welfare of its students seriously. The following policies and procedures are part of faculty efforts to assure student safety.

Section 30.05 *Nursing/Patient Safety*

Students in any of the Nursing programs shall practice appropriate safety procedures in protecting patients, themselves, and others from unnecessary harm and exposures at all times.

Article XXXI. Student Rights

Section 31.01 *Non-discrimination*

The Nursing Programs adhere to institutional policy regarding non-discrimination. No person shall be excluded from or denied benefits of any program or activity based on sex, color, race, creed, age, religion, natural or regional origin. In addition, no qualified handicapped person shall be excluded from or denied the benefits of any program or activity as long as he/she meets the technical standards as described on page in this Handbook. Admission procedures and ongoing operations are conducted in accordance with this policy. Each of the recognized clinical education settings also supports non-discrimination.

Any student who feels he or she is being discriminated against in violation of this policy is encouraged to bring the complaint to the immediate attention of the Dean of Nursing.

Article XXXII. Americans with Disabilities Act

The Nursing Programs adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Any student requiring accommodation for a documented disability must meet with the Program Director to request that accommodation at the beginning of the program. The student will be required to provide documentation of the disability from an appropriate health care provider. ***Accommodating Students with Disabilities.***

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Two primary federal laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination in higher educational settings like colleges and universities are the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act). Title III of the ADA covers private colleges and vocational schools. If a school receives federal dollars, including federal financial assistance, regardless of whether it is private or public, it is also covered by the Rehabilitation Act. Because SU receives federal financial assistance, it must comply with both the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA and the Rehabilitation Act prohibit schools from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Moreover, the ADA gives students with disabilities the right to the same goods, services, facilities, privileges, and advantages as nondisabled students, in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Schools cannot have eligibility requirements that screen out people with physical or mental disabilities. Moreover, the application forms cannot ask applicants if they have a history of mental illness or any other disability. Schools must also make sure that all programs that they offers, including extracurricular activities, are accessible to students with disabilities. In addition to the architectural access outlines above, the school should provide aids and services necessary for effective communication, and by modifying practices, policies, and procedures.

To ensure that their programs and activities are fully accessible to students with disabilities, colleges and universities are required to provide “reasonable accommodations”. Specifically, they are required to make reasonable modifications in their practices, policies, and procedures, and provide auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, unless to do so would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations they offer, or would result in an undue financial or administrative burden on the institution.

Reasonable accommodations to policies, practices, and procedures include:

- Allowing extra time on exams
- Allowing a reduced course load and extending the time within which to complete degree requirements.
- Rescheduling classes to an accessible location.
- Early enrollment options for students with disabilities to allow time to arrange accommodations.
- Providing students with disabilities with the syllabus prior to the beginning of class
- Allowing students to use tape-recorded lectures.
- Qualified readers, tape-recorded or digitally recorded texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments or learning disabilities.
- Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Under limited circumstances, the school may refuse to provide a student with requested accommodations. The ADA and Section 504 only require schools to provide accommodations that are reasonable. The school can refuse to provide an accommodation if it can show that:

- Providing the accommodation would create an undue financial or administrative burden for the school
- Providing the accommodation would fundamentally alter the school's academic program
- The requested accommodation is of a personal nature (for example, assistance with eating or help with toileting)

Section 32.01 *HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Federal Law*

This law protects patients' rights regarding their health information, including the right to review it and make decisions about how it is used and disclosed, and requires health care providers to implement safeguards to ensure the privacy of patient's health information.

PHI = Protected Health Information

Protected health information (PHI) is confidential and protected from access, use, or disclosure except to authorized individuals requiring access to such information. Attempting to obtain or use, actually obtaining or using, or assisting others to obtain or use PHI, when unauthorized or improper, will result in counseling and/or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

Students are not to write the name of the patient, as it is acceptable to write the initials. Do not take any of the patients' PHI home.

Section 32.02 *Grade Appeals*

All students have the right to appeal their grades. A student who believes the final grade assigned for a course is not appropriate must first contact the instructor who assigned the grade to discuss the matter. The student must schedule this meeting within three (3) days of the grade being submitted. If, following this discussion, the student continues to believe the grade is not appropriate, the student may challenge the final course grade assigned in any course by writing a letter to the Associate Dean of Nursing explaining clearly and concisely the reason the grade is not appropriate. Written challenges to grades must be received by the Associate Dean of Nursing within a calendar week of the final discussion between the student and the course instructor. The Associate Dean of Nursing will, whenever possible, issue a written response to the student's appeal within one week of its submission. If the student continues to believe the course grade is unfair, the student may submit a written appeal to the Dean of Nursing. The Dean of Nursing will consider the request and provide a written decision to the student within one week of its receipt. If needed, the appeal can go to the Academic Dean of the university. The Academic Dean's decision is final concerning grade appeals. If the

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Dean of Nursing assigned the grade in question, the same procedure is followed using the Academic Deans, whose decision will be final.

Section 32.03 *Grievance Procedure*

The purpose of this student complaint/grievance procedure is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff, and administrators.

Procedures for Initiating Grievance Complaints: This procedure has been established to provide a method to resolve students' grievances at the lowest administrative level fairly and expeditiously. For this procedure, grievances are limited to alleged violations of Southwest University policy or procedures by Southwest University or its employees, disputes with faculty, and/or alleged unfair treatment. This method is usually used to appeal a grade the student feels was not justified. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student has allegedly violated the code of conduct. Any student who believes that he/she has been unjustly treated within the academic process may proceed as far as necessary in the steps detailed below:

Step One: The student confers with the involved person in an effort to resolve the issue informally. In the instance of harassment, refer to the section entitled Student Complaint Procedures (Harassment).

Step Two: If the complaint is not resolved at the informal conference, the student may file a written complaint with the appropriate program director/Dean. The complaint should be provided in writing and detailed within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint informal conference. The complaint should be in writing and detailed. The program director/Dean will also inform the Vice President of the Institution of the status and progress of the complaint at each stage in the process.

Step Three: The program director/Dean will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, explain the complaint process to the student, conduct an investigation, and attempt to resolve the complaint. The director should respond to the student with the results of his/her investigation within ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint.

If the complaint is valid, appropriate administrative action will ensue. Such administrative action is not public information, except when disclosure is compelled by law.

Step Four: If the director's/Dean's written statement is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may appeal to the vice president within five (5) working days of receiving the decision from the program director.

Step Five: The vice president will render a final decision on receiving the appeal. If the vice president was involved with the second step, then an appeal to the University President is permitted. Such an appeal must be filed in writing with the President's office within five (5) working days of the student being notified of the Vice President's decision. The President is to respond to the appeal within ten (10) working days of receiving the written complaint. The President's decision is final.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

If a resolution is not reached, the student may submit a written complaint to TWC.

These additional steps can be found in the grievance procedure available in the Southwest University at El Paso Student Handbook at www.southwestuniversity.edu

The procedure regarding student complaints is grouped into two categories:

1. Student grade complaints
2. Student complaints regarding non-academic matters

The purpose of these student procedures is to provide a mechanism for resolving student complaints against faculty, staff, and administrative offices concerning the following:

- Discrimination or intimidating treatment, including harassment based on race, gender, age, weight, height, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or disability, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.
- Any other seemingly arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, or unprofessional conduct toward a student or group of students by a faculty or staff member, or an administrative officer of the University.

Any and all allegations of program noncompliance with the Standards will be given prompt, fair, and continued consideration until resolved and must be submitted in writing to the Program Director. The written complaint/grievance must include the following: name of student (or other individual) filing allegation, specific Standard of noncompliance, date(s) and example(s) of when and how the program was non-compliant with the Standard, and date of submission. Within ten (10) working days, the Program Director will provide a written response to the student (or other individual) indicating how the complaint of noncompliance was resolved. The Program Director will keep a record of all complaints and resolutions of alleged non-compliance.

Section 32.04 *Student Complaints*

The student who has any question, concern, or complaint should immediately contact the Associate Dean of Nursing for an appointment to discuss the matter. If the student remains dissatisfied following discussion with the Associate Dean of Nursing, they may request an appointment with the Dean of Nursing. If at that time the student is still not satisfied with the outcome, the student may initiate a formal grievance proceeding as outlined in the Southwest University at El Paso Catalog. If the issue remains unresolved at the campus level, the student can contact the accrediting agency (www.abhes.org) to file a formal complaint.

Article XXXIII. Professionalism

As students in a professional education program, Nursing students shall professionally conduct themselves during all classes, labs, seminars, and clinical rotations regardless of platform (Distance Education or Residential). This includes showing respect for faculty, patients, clinical personnel, and other students; prompt attendance for all classes, labs, and clinical assignments; and avoidance of any behavior that disrupts or interferes with academic or clinical activities.

SU Nursing Student Handbook

Professionalism also requires adherence to ethical principles such as accepting responsibility for one's actions; not lying or cheating; not degrading the character of others; and not spreading gossip or evidencing a negative attitude that impacts the confidence, study, or work of others.

All Nursing students share the same goal: to graduate as knowledgeable and competent, entry-level technologists. Each individual receives the same educational opportunities, but each reaches the goal in his or her own way. When problems are encountered, they are dealt with on an individual basis.

The program is not a competition. Each student should be dedicated to his or her own studies and development and not overly concerned about the progress or problems of others. This, however, does not preclude giving help to fellow students who request it; rather, professionalism suggests that assisting others in honest and ethical ways is part of the package of expected skills.

Nursing students are expected to exhibit mature and responsible behavior. If the behavior of another is considered unprofessional, unethical, or annoying, the offended student should first mention it to the offending student. If this fails to bring about an appropriate resolution, the student should then discreetly bring the behavior to the attention of the faculty or the Dean of Nursing. Problems concerning any aspect of the Program should be handled in this way.

Resolution of classroom or clinical issues will be discussed only with the student or students involved. Other class members must assume that once problems are appropriately reported to the faculty or Dean of Nursing, they are being appropriately handled, even though the resolution may not be apparent and is not made public to other class members.

In the execution of daily duties, the nurse must work as part of a team and must work to the best of his or her abilities. He or she must readily accept duties assigned by supervisors and provide care without discrimination. It is only by demonstrating these same behaviors in the classroom that the student assures program faculty that he or she is capable of exhibiting the same behavior in the clinical education setting. Students failing to meet these expectations will not be placed in clinical education sites.

Section 33.01 *Breaks/Vacation/Leaves*

The Nursing program calendar mirrors the school calendar and is given to all students at the beginning of the program. The only breaks provided to students during the program are a week at Christmas and any breaks that may be allowed by the university between terms or designated holidays.

Student progress in the program cannot be interrupted by vacations or other leaves.

Considerations cannot be given for vacations or other personal activities during the program. Students who take time off during the term are counted as absent, and the attendance policies found elsewhere in this Handbook and in the University Catalog apply. Medical leaves must be documented by appropriate paperwork. Bereavement leave is granted for up to two days in case of death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, child, parent, sibling, or

SU Nursing Student Handbook

in-laws. Students in the nursing program who choose to take a leave of absence will be required to reapply to the program during the next application cycle.

Section 33.02 *Access to Program Resources*

Students enrolled in the Program may utilize the classrooms, equipment, and learning materials for study purposes whenever classes are not in session and by arrangement with Program faculty.

Students who utilize the facilities are expected to keep the rooms neat and orderly, turn off overhead lights, viewers, etc., and close doors when leaving. Learning materials are to be returned to the instructor or left in the secured rooms. They may not be removed from the classroom or the lab.

- Library access is available to all students (including nursing program) during school hours, as well as online for those students not able to travel to campus.
- It Support is provided online for all students experiencing technical issues and can be accessed at the Southwest University website.



College of Nursing

Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the entire College of Nursing Student Handbook. My signature below verifies that I understand my rights and responsibilities as a student and will abide by and be responsible for all stated policies and procedures. If I have any questions, I will contact the appropriate College of Nursing representative.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Name (Sign): _____

Date: _____



RELEASE CONSENT FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREEN, AND OTHER HEALTH OR ACADEMIC INFORMATION.

My signature below indicates that I have read the Health and Academic Information release policy of Southwest University at El Paso, and have been provided with a copy of the same. I understand that the results of the criminal background check and drug screening are to be used for the purposes of determining my eligibility for a clinical educational experience in my educational program. These tests are non-refundable if I withdraw or fail from the program. By signing below, I provide my voluntary and irrevocable consent for a criminal background check, immunizations record, physical exam results and drug screen to be conducted and for the results of such to be released to Southwest University at El Paso, who in turn may share said information with the clinical/accreditation agencies with whom I am being assigned for a clinical experience and accreditation reviews and the Texas Board of Nursing.

Student Signature

Date

Students Printed Name