



**William Paterson University of NJ  
School of Nursing  
Online Graduate Programs**

**Master of Science Programs**

**Online Student Handbook of  
Policies and Procedures**

**2025 – 2026**

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## **Introduction**

We are providing this Student Handbook in order to inform you of the policies and procedures which will influence your experience in the Graduate Programs of the School of Nursing at The William Paterson University of New Jersey. Students are expected to be familiar with the contents herein and to abide by these regulations. Ignorance will not diminish accountability with regards to these policies and procedures.

The MSN Graduate Nursing Student Handbook, The William Paterson University Student Handbook and the current William Paterson University Graduate Catalog, all available online, will provide you with the information needed to pursue a successful academic experience as a graduate student. Please obtain a copy of each of these resources to become familiar with the rules and regulations that are binding while you are a graduate student here at William Paterson University. The MSN program is accredited by the Commission of Colligate Nursing Education (CCNE) 655 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20011 Phone (202)-887-6791 until 2030.

The faculty and staff of the William Paterson University Graduate Nursing Program take pride in our program, our students, and their accomplishments. We wish you great success throughout your educational and clinical experience.

### **Student Responsibility:**

Graduate students are expected to know the requirements for the degree they plan to earn. While the staff and faculty will endeavor to aid in every manner possible, students are responsible for staying informed of current regulations, their status in the graduate program and progress toward graduation. This handbook has been developed to provide you with a wealth of information that you will need throughout your nursing program. It is important that students refer to the information in the handbook every semester that they are enrolled. Requirements may be revised at any time. New information and policy/procedure changes will be emailed to all enrolled students using the University email system. Additional information can be found in the William Paterson University catalog and in the University Student Handbook.

## **UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

William Paterson University as a proud diverse community, designated as a public Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution, creates transformative academic and extracurricular experiences leading to meaningful careers, and promotes economic and social mobility. We empower our students through intentional and holistic support systems within flexible, innovative, and inclusive environments. Our graduates will power the New Jersey economy and beyond, thriving professionally and personally through a commitment to community engagement and social justice.

Approved by the William Paterson University Board of Trustees November 17, 2023.

### **VISION:**

William Paterson University will be widely recognized as the model of outstanding and affordable public higher education, characterized by rigorous academic preparation and a wide array of experiential, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. The University will be distinctive for nationally recognized programs that prepare its students for the careers of today and tomorrow and known for its support of the personal growth and academic success of a highly diverse student body. It will be an institution of first choice for students committed to transforming their lives and making a difference.

## **CORE VALUES**

At the core of everything the University does, the following five values define its ethos and fundamental beliefs:

### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

As individuals and as an institution, we seek to model and to impart to our students the highest standards of knowledge, inquiry, preparation, academic freedom and integrity, as well as an expanded sense of what an individual can accomplish.

### **CREATING KNOWLEDGE**

We strive to expand the boundaries of knowledge and creative expression in and outside of our classrooms. We help students think imaginatively and critically. We encourage innovative solutions to social issues and challenges of ecological sustainability, economic growth, and ethical dilemmas confronting our communities, regions, nation and world.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Students are our reason for being. We judge our effectiveness, progress and success in terms of how well we provide a platform for their personal, intellectual and professional development, enabling them to transform their lives and become civically engaged.

### **DIVERSITY**

We value and promote the expression of all aspects of diversity. We maintain a campus culture that welcomes diversity of personal circumstances and experiences. We prepare students to become effective citizens in an increasingly diverse, interdependent and pluralistic society.

### **CITIZENSHIP**

We challenge our students, faculty, staff and alumni to recognize their responsibility to improve the world around them, starting locally and expanding globally. We offer critical expertise to New Jersey and our region. In keeping with our public mission, our scholarship and public engagement address pressing community needs in the region and beyond.

*Approved by the William Paterson University Board of Trustees March 19, 2012*

## **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH SCHOOL OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT**

The William Paterson University School of Nursing, through its educational programs, is committed to preparing nurses who are accountable for the delivery of culturally sensitive, caring, and competent nursing care to diverse clients in a variety of settings. Graduates of the Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs are encouraged to pursue life-long learning to affect and enhance self-development, professional growth, critical thinking and leadership.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The School of Nursing is an integral part of the University and shares its mission and goals in relation to quality education, research, creative activity, and community service. The faculty actively concurs with the University's commitment to promote student success, academic excellence, and community outreach. The faculty also values diversity and equity as essential to educational excellence and responsible citizenship in an increasingly global economy and technological world.

The beliefs of the faculty provide direction for the organization of the curricula in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. The faculty believe in the integrity and worth of human beings. Human beings are holistic and continually responding to the environment in order to meet their biological, psychosocial, and spiritual needs. The individual is unique, capable of change, and participates in decision making related to health care needs. The individual warrants respect, dignity, and recognition of personal beliefs and values. All human beings deserve nursing care that is culturally sensitive and caring, as they progress through their life span.

The faculty believes health is dynamic and is influenced by complex and technological environments. Health is a social concept existing in individuals, families, communities, and a nation that reflects normative standards referenced by cultural beliefs, personal values, mores, and experiences.

As an academic discipline and practice profession, Nursing's focus of concern is health and the delivery of health care. Nursing as a socially accountable profession exerts an essential influence on the health status of clients/client systems. Nursing's social influence prevails when the profession continues to recognize and respond to society's evolving health care needs. Nursing explores, examines, proposes, supports, and challenges health care practices and policies to maintain the dialogue that protects the quality of and access to the health system. Nursing is a creative human service provided within an active cooperative relationship with clients.

Nurses influence healthy responses that promote, maintain, and restore health across the life span, and they participate in the wellness-illness and end-of-life experiences of those they serve. Baccalaureate nurses use a systematic five step nursing process approach that engages critical thinking, intellectual, interpersonal, and technical competencies in the delivery of professional nursing care. Masters prepared graduates build on those basic competencies and delineate nursing knowledge embedded in clinical practice through research. They are skillful in applying frameworks, models of care, concepts, and rationales for practice. Evidence based principles and research are critical premises for developing quality practice decisions by undergraduate and graduate students. Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates are prepared as thought leaders expected to advance nursing practice and the profession.

The goal of education within the School of Nursing is to promote student growth toward realizing their personal and professional potential. Nursing knowledge and relevant knowledge from the humanities, the natural and behavioral science are foundational for professional nursing and are prerequisites for graduate education.

The Masters' education incorporates advanced theory, research, and skills into the competencies required in a variety of settings. The advanced prepared nurse provides leadership for the advancement of the discipline, in the scientific community, and in academic and service institutions.

Doctor of Nursing Practice education expands the professional nurse's theoretical foundations. The nurse applies research, theory, and current evidence towards the improvement of the profession of nursing and patient health outcomes. These graduates actively engage in the critical conversation that affects systems of care and health policy at the local, regional, and national levels.

Faculty view learning as a continuous interactive and life-long process. The ways of knowing are many and include aesthetic, observational, experimental, intuitive, and rational approaches. Learning requires self-discipline and goal orientation. Faculty ensure that the curriculum includes learning opportunities to develop and apply knowledge, skills and values. Additionally, all graduates must be able to engage the technology driven information systems that are the repositories of health data.

Finally, the faculty believes the graduates of the educational programs are prepared to deliver safe and effective nursing through teaching, research, and collaboration with other professionals and health care consumers.

Rev. 5/89; 5/96; 11/12/07; 2/10; 5/10/13

## Master's Degree Program Outcomes

The content in the master's program in nursing is consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Nursing. It is designed to meet the program objectives which are derived from the overall framework guiding curriculum. Upon completion of the program, the graduate is able to meet the program objectives, which reflect the roles of the advanced prepared nurse in practice, education and/or management.

The William Paterson University of New Jersey master's graduate in nursing will be prepared to:

1. Apply advanced knowledge of nursing theories, related sciences and humanities, and methods of inquiry in the delivery of healthcare services.
2. Develop leadership and communicate effectively using the collaborative approach to improve quality care.
3. Analyze changes in the healthcare system through the design and implementation of health-related projects that strengthen the outcomes in the healthcare delivery system.
4. Apply evidence, research and theory to improve health services.
5. Apply current health information and technologies to advance the quality and accessibility of care.
6. Advocate for healthcare policies and systems to improve healthcare.
7. Analyze systems responses to health and illness to improve the promotion, restoration, and maintenance of health that reflect respect across diverse cultures.
8. Engage in advanced nursing care to individuals, families, communities, and clinical populations.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Require applicants to submit two names of references (former faculty and current manager/supervisor).
2. A BSN transcript with a minimum of 3.0 GPA is required.
3. Pre-requisite undergraduate courses: statistics, health assessment and nursing research\*\*
4. Currently employed as an RN
5. Students enrolling in the WPU on campus program must have an active NJ RN license; Students enrolling in the WPU online program must have an active RN license in the state they are practicing. For your application to be processed, the University must be able to validate your RN license. If your state does not have an online RN license validation process, you must submit a notarized copy of current RN license valid in the U.S. to Office of Admissions, William Paterson University, 300 Pompton Road, Wayne, NJ 07470
6. Submit a current resume

## **ADMISSION STATUS**

The following are regulations affecting all graduate students at WPUNJ.

### **Matriculation Policy**

Matriculated students are those who are fully accepted to a degree-granting program.

## **ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT**

### **Academic Advisor Assignment**

When a student is accepted into the master's program the student will be assigned an academic advisor. The student will be notified of his or her advisor's name during new student orientation. All visiting students will be advised by the Graduate Program Director.

### **Responsibilities of Academic Advisors**

The academic advisement process is essential in order to promote a high-quality educational program and to facilitate teaching and learning. This unique process assists in the clarification of goals and encourages continuity of learning throughout the master's program. Academic advisers are valuable resource persons for administrators, faculty, and students. Advisement is seen as a responsibility of both students and faculty.

The responsibilities include:

### **After Admission**

1. Review the student's records.
2. Clarify specific career goals.
3. Assist in planning the student's total program including appropriate sequencing and requirements.
4. Clarify expectations of student-faculty roles.
5. Spell out student responsibilities, e.g., record keeping and registration, and provide policy interpretation regarding academic standing.

### **Throughout the Program**

1. Speak with student each semester to facilitate registration, e.g., discussion of changes in courses and/or program.
2. Grant approval for registration.
3. Keep informed of the student's progress and status.
4. Communicate with student regarding academic progress, e.g., discussion of academic standing or problems interfering with study.
5. Refer the student to appropriate resources for assistance with personal or financial problems.
6. Maintain the student's records and update with pertinent data.
7. Note the student's progress on file each semester and as necessary.
8. Note special interviews, phone calls, etc., in student's record
9. Determine the student's eligibility for awards and honors; faculty recommends the student for awards and honors for which he or she is eligible.

### **Graduation: Completion of Program**

Students who are eligible for graduation are required to complete the application for graduation at: WPCONNECT (<http://wpconnect.wpunj.edu/cp/home/loginf>)

\*See link below for more information on **graduation, certification, Commencement, transcripts, and diplomas**. <https://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/nursing/graduate-programs/Graduation-Information/>

Students who have already applied to graduate and need to change their graduation date should go to: WPCONNECT – Student tab - Graduation <http://wpconnect.wpunj.edu/cp/home/loginf>

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Protocol for Advisement and Registration**

1. Each student is to make an appointment or speak with their advisor during the advisement period before or during registration.
2. Students will be able to view course offerings and register online by going to: <http://www.wpunj.edu/enrolled/> and click on registration.
3. All dropping or adding of courses should be done after consultation between the advisor and student.

Authorizations or permits issued by the Graduate Program Director, advisor or School of Nursing Chairperson to waive pre-requisites or for entry to a closed course must be claimed by the student registering for the course via Web Registration. The authorizations or permits that are unclaimed by the student will become invalid at the close of program adjustment. **If you wish to drop all courses**, you must take a Leave of Absence or a formal Withdrawal from the University. Students who need to file a Leave of Absence or Withdrawal from the University, visit link for more information. <https://wpunj.edu/registrar/academic-regulations/leave.html>

### **Registration and Course Selection**

The final responsibility for proper course selection and timely registration rests with the student. Each semester, with the approval of their assigned advisor, students register for courses necessary to progress toward completion of the curriculum in which they are enrolled.

## Academic Integrity Policy

### I. Standards of Academic Conduct

As an academic institution committed to the discovery and dissemination of truth, William Paterson University expects all members of the University community to conduct themselves honestly and with professional demeanor in all academic activities.

William Paterson University has established standards of academic conduct because of its belief that academic honesty is a matter of individual and University responsibility and that, when standards of honesty are violated, each member of the community is harmed.

All members of the University community are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy.

### II. Violations of Academic Integrity

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy include, but may not be limited to, the following examples:

A. **Plagiarism** is the copying from a book, article, notebook, video, or other source material, whether published or unpublished, without proper credit through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, programs, and experiments of another, whether such actions are intentional or unintentional. Plagiarism also includes submitting, without the consent of the professor, an assignment already tendered for academic credit in another course.

B. **Cheating** during examinations includes any attempt to (1) look at another student's examination with the intention of using another's answers for personal benefit; (2) communicate, in any manner, information concerning the content of the examination during the testing period or after the examination to someone who has not yet taken the examination; (3) use any materials, such as notebooks, notes, textbooks, or other sources, not specifically designated by the professor of the course for student use during the examination period; or (4) engage in any other activity for the purpose of seeking aid not authorized by the professor.

C. **Collusion** is working together with another person or persons in preparing separate course assignments in ways not authorized by the instructor. Academic work produced through a cooperative (collaborative) effort of two or more students is permissible only upon the explicit consent of the professor. The collaboration must also be acknowledged in stating the authorship of the report.

D. **Lying** is knowingly furnishing false information, distorting or omitting data, failing to provide all necessary, required information to the University advisor, registrar, admissions counselor, or professor, for any academically related purpose.

E. **Other concerns** that relate to the Academic Integrity Policy include such issues as breach of personal security, stolen tests, falsified records, and vandalism of library or other materials.

No list could possibly include all the possible violations of academic integrity. These examples should, however, give a clearer idea of the intent and extent of application of this policy.

### **III. Faculty Responsibilities for Upholding the Academic Integrity Policy**

**A.** Faculty is expected to be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy. Each faculty member will inform students of the applicable procedures and conditions early in each semester before the first examination or assignment is due.

**B.** Ordinarily, in-class tests and final exams should be proctored. Proctoring is defined as having a faculty member or a representative of the faculty present in the room during an exam. Proctoring is the responsibility of the faculty member teaching the course although, where necessary, that responsibility may be shared with, or delegated to, faculty colleagues or graduate assistants assigned to the course.

### **IV. Resolution of Academic Integrity Policy Violations**

**A.** If a faculty member has sufficient reason to believe that a violation may have occurred on any work submitted for a grade, he/she must attempt to speak with the student within ten (10) school days of the incident to discuss appropriate resolution.

**B.** After discussing this matter with the student, and if the student accepts the proposed resolution, the student waives his/ her right to a hearing. Depending on circumstances, as assessed by the faculty member who has discussed the matter with the student, any of the following penalties may be imposed:

1. Resubmission of the assignment in question
2. Failure of the assignment
3. Failure of the course
4. Withdrawal from the course with no credit received
5. The imposition of other appropriate penalties with the consent of the student
6. Recommendation to the President of suspension or expulsion from the University

With any of the above, the faculty member may have a written record of the sequence of events placed in the student's permanent record with a copy to the student.

**C.** If the student does not admit to a violation or disagrees with the proposed resolution, he/she must:

1. Speak directly to the faculty member within ten (10) school days of being informed of a violation or of the proposed penalty. If, after repeated attempts, the student is unable to reach the faculty member within ten (10) school days, the student must notify the School of Nursing chairperson in writing within that ten (10) day period.

If, after discussion with the faculty member, the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student may contact the School of Nursing chairperson presenting a dated, written, and signed statement describing the specific basis for the complaint. At this time, the student must provide the faculty member with a copy of these written materials.

2. The School of Nursing chairperson should try to resolve the issue by reaching an agreement by both the student and the faculty member. If the issue is not resolved at the chairperson's level, the student may request that the chairperson convene the School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee)—excluding the faculty members involved—to hear the appeal. The faculty member submits a written, dated, and signed statement of the alleged violation to the council/ committee. The student must submit a written, dated, and signed statement describing the basis of the complaint. The accuser assumes the burden of proof. When the faculty member involved is the chairperson, the student may request that the dean of the college convene the School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee). The School of Nursing Executive Council/Committee submits its recommendation to the chairperson (or college dean, if the faculty member involved is the chairperson).

3. If not satisfied with the School of Nursing Executive Council's (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee's) decision, the student may ask the Dean of that college to bring the matter to the College Council. The faculty member submits a written, dated, and signed statement of the alleged violation. The student submits a written, dated, and signed statement describing the basis for the complaint. The accuser assumes the burden of proof. The chairperson of the School of Nursing concerned does not take part in the final vote (although the written decision from the School of Nursing chairperson is part of the college record). The College Council's decision constitutes the University's final decision regarding the substantive nature of the case. Future appeals based on violations of due process are permitted to the limit of the law.

4. Each step in the procedure must be initiated within ten (10) school days of the faculty, chairperson of the School of Nursing, or college response. Dated, written, and signed statements are required at each step. Likewise, at each level, the faculty member(s), chairperson, School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee), or College Council must complete a review of all pertinent written materials prior to rendering a decision, in writing, within ten (10) school days of receipt of complaint materials. In case the faculty member has been verifiably unable to be contacted, or in other instances of extenuating circumstances affecting students or faculty, it is understood that the student's right to appeal is not jeopardized and the time constraints will be extended. Due process must be followed at every step of this procedure. No penalty will be changed by anyone other than the faculty member who assigned it, unless there is convincing evidence that the penalty was inconsistent with professional standards of the discipline.

5. Each student who registers a complaint with a School of Nursing chairperson must be given a copy of this policy. A copy must be attached to the appeal and signed by the student to indicate that he/ she has received a copy of the procedure and has read and understands it, before the appeal can proceed. In the event the College Council cannot resolve it, the matter is referred to the Dean of Graduate Admissions.

## ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

### OLD POLICY -

A. Students must earn a grade of B- or better in all courses.

- i. Students earning a grade of C+ or lower in any course are placed on academic probation, must repeat the course, and must earn a grade of B- or better.
- ii. If a student does not earn a grade of B- or better upon repeating a course, the student will be subject to dismissal.
- iii. Students may repeat up to two courses in which a grade of C+ or lower was earned.
- iv. Students earning a C+ or lower in a third course will be dismissed.

### **\*NEW POLICY\* –**

**This policy is effective for all students who matriculate in the MSN program May 2025**

**Graduate Academic Probation/Dismissal Policy Change:** Students who meet any of the following conditions will be notified that they are at risk for dismissal unless subsequent course grades are improved:

A. Students must earn a grade of B or better in all courses.

- i. Students earning a grade of B- or lower in any course are placed on academic probation, must repeat the course and must earn a grade of B or better.
- ii. Students are expected to repeat a course with a B- or lower grade before continuing on in the program. If the course is not available in the next session, students must consult with an advisor.
- iii. If a student does not earn a grade of B or better upon repeating a course, the student will be subject to dismissal. A course may only be repeated once.
- iv. Students may repeat up to two different courses in which a grade of B- or lower was earned.
- v. Students earning a B- or lower in a third course will be dismissed.

Students matriculating May 2025 and later will be held to this academic standard. Students matriculating prior to May 2025 will be held to previously approve academic standards.

A. Process

- i. The student petitions the Graduate Director requesting to repeat a course per above.
- ii. The petition is accompanied by a remediation plan that has been developed and approved in consultation with the course instructor, along with the program director and School of Nursing chair.
- iii. The repeated course must be completed within the period stipulated in the remediation plan.
- iv. The new course grade will be included in the student's permanent record as the official final grade and will be counted in the student's grade point average.
- v. The original grade will be converted to an "R" or other appropriate repeat course designation on the student's permanent record and will not be used in calculating the grade point average once the new course grade has been posted.

**\* A student must attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the final semester of matriculation which is consistent with university policy. A student who does not obtain a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 at the end of final semester will be dismissed.**

## TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

A maximum of 49% of the total required credits for a graduate degree program may be satisfied through the application of transfer credits provided that: (1) the student applies for transfer credit at the time of matriculation; (2) the work was taken in graduate courses for graduate credit; (3) the work was taken within the last six years; (4) the grade received was B or better; (5) the work does not duplicate any work, graduate or undergraduate, for which credit was previously given; (6) the work has been taken at an accredited college or university; (7) the work is applicable to the student's program.

A current matriculated William Paterson University student may, in some instances, be allowed to take courses off-campus at other institutions as a visiting student and transfer the credit to William Paterson. The student must receive permission from the dean of the college and/or the School of Nursing chairperson of his/her program of study prior to course registration. These credits are allowed as transfer credit; provisions two through six as stated above remain applicable in such instances. See **Visiting Student Authorization form**.

## APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTION FOR A REQUIRED GRADUATE COURSE

A student may request a course taken at another accredited institution outside the William Paterson University graduate program in nursing to be used as a substitution for a required course. The course must meet all the following requirements before it can be submitted for approval to the Graduate Program Director: The course must have been taken no more than six years before admission to the graduate program in nursing. The transcript must show a grade of A or B in the course; it must be a graduate-level course; and it must be approved by the faculty teaching the required course at William Paterson University.

A course description and an official transcript are required and should be attached to this petition before it is submitted. Use an **Adjustment of Degree Requirements Form**, which can be obtained by contacting the Graduate Nursing Program Office, if course is already completed.

When applying in advance of taking the course the student must file a **Visiting Student Authorization Form**. The form must be signed by the Director of the Graduate Program, School of Nursing Chairperson and Dean. An official transcript from the College/University where the course was taken must be sent to William Paterson University, Office of the Registrar, P.O. Box 913, Wayne, NJ 07474-0913.

## **GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**

### **Overview**

Any complaints by students concerning their grades should be handled within the structure of the graduate program. The purpose of the following protocol is to ensure due process for all parties. It allows the student to determine if an error has been made in assigning the grade and, alternatively, it provides the instructor with an opportunity to explain why the grade was given. Each student who registers a complaint with a School of Nursing chairperson will be referred to the policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

### **Procedure**

Complaints concerning the grading practices of individual instructors should be handled in the following manner:

1. The student must write to the faculty member within 10 working days of the receipt of the grade or after the incident related to the student's academic performance, to request an appointment to discuss the complaint. The letter must also include any pertinent documentation to substantiate the student's complaint.
2. At the meeting with the faculty member, the student must present any additional pertinent documents to substantiate the complaint. The faculty member must make available for review at this meeting, materials submitted by the student for evaluation, and not yet seen by the student.
3. If the student is unsuccessful in making contact with the faculty member, or after meeting with the faculty member, wishes to further pursue the complaint, the student must write to the School of Nursing chairperson, and request an appointment to discuss the complaint. A copy of all materials originally presented to the faculty member must be provided. The School of Nursing chairperson will try to resolve the issue by reaching a settlement that is agreed upon by both the student and the faculty member. Each student who registers a complaint with a School of Nursing chairperson must be given a copy of this policy. A copy must be attached to the appeal and signed by the student to indicate that he/she has been given a copy of this procedure, has read it and understands it before the appeal can proceed.
4. If the complaint is not resolved at the chairperson's level, and if the student wishes to pursue the complaint, the student must request in writing that the School of Nursing chairperson convene the School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee) to hear further appeal. The committee will then submit a decision to the School of Nursing chairperson. When the faculty member involved is the chairperson, the student may request that the dean of the college convene the School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee).
5. If not satisfied with the School of Nursing Executive Council's (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee's) decision, and if the student wishes to further pursue the complaint, the student must write to the Dean of that college requesting that the complaint be brought to the College Council for a decision by the School of Nursing chairpersons of the college concerned. The chairperson of the School of Nursing concerned will not take part in the final vote. This decision will constitute the University or College's final decision.
6. The faculty unequivocally have the final responsibility with regard to grade changes.

## **REPEAT POLICY**

Refer to new probation dismissal policy. Any student who is required to repeat a course per policy needs to petition the Graduate Program Director for approval with input from the course faculty. The student has a conference with the course faculty to discuss completing the remediation form. The completed remediation form is submitted to the Graduate Director for approval. It is then forwarded to the Associate Dean for approval.

## **PROCEDURE**

- The student's petition must be accompanied by a remediation plan that has been developed and approved in consultation with the program director, course instructor and School of Nursing chair.
- The student will be placed on probation until the remediation plan has been satisfactorily completed.
- No more than two courses in the program shall be repeated.
- The repeated course must be completed within the time stipulated in the remediation plan.
- The new course grade will be included on the student's permanent record as the official final grade and will be counted in the student's grade point average.
- The original grade will be converted to an "R" or other appropriate repeat designation on the student's permanent record and will not be used in calculating the grade point average once the new course grade has been posted.

Graduate programs may modify this policy to be more stringent but not more lenient, based on disciplinary standards or accreditation and credentialing requirements, with approval of the Office of the Provost.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE**

A graduate student who wishes to withdraw from a course must do so within the established deadlines published in the online Academic Calendar: (<https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/calendars/wp-online-calendar>). If a graduate student wishes to drop to 0 (zero) credit, a Leave of Absence form must be filed at WP CONNECT. See link for more information <https://wpunj.edu/registrar/academic-regulations/leave.html>

## **GRADE CHANGE POLICY**

A grade is issued only by the faculty member teaching a course and may not be changed by anyone other than the faculty member who assigned it, unless there is convincing evidence that the assignment of the original grade was inconsistent with professional standards in the discipline. Students who would like to challenge a grade should pursue the following procedure, in accordance with due process at each step. Each step in the procedure must be initiated within ten (10) working days of the faculty, chairperson, or School of Nursing response. Dated, written statements are required at each step. Likewise, at each level, the faculty member, chairperson, or School of Nursing Executive Council (or other appropriate School of Nursing committee) must complete a review of all pertinent written materials prior to rendering a decision, and inform the student in writing of the decision within ten working days of receipt of the complaint materials.

If the student can verify that she or he has not been able to contact the faculty member, it is understood that the student's right to appeal is not jeopardized, and the deadline will be extended. The student should retain a copy of all materials submitted at each level of the appeal process. If the student chooses, he/she is allowed to appear before the appropriate committee or council at each level of the appeal process.

## **REVIEW OF EXAMINATION RESULTS**

Due to the progressive nature of the nursing curriculum, students may review an exam or quizzes in accordance with University policy only. If you wish to review an exam with your instructor, make an appointment. If you have concerns regarding an exam, put concerns in writing and submit it to the professor who taught the content. If students are absent from an exam, grades will be posted but review of exam by the class may be delayed until after makeup exams have been taken.

## **APPEAL OF DISMISSAL FROM THE NURSING MAJOR**

Students who wish to appeal the DISMISSAL decision of the Academic Standards Committee should submit a letter to the Chairperson of the School of Nursing stating why they believe they should be reinstated. The Chairperson will convene the School of Nursing Executive Committee to deliberate on the appeal. The Chairperson will notify the student of the outcome of the deliberations. If the appeal is denied, students may then appeal to the Dean of the College of Science and Health, which is the final level of appeal. The Dean or the Dean's designee will notify the student of the outcome. If the dismissal appeal is granted at any stage of this appeal process, the student will be notified in writing of the conditions of reinstatement, which include acceptance that no further reinstatement appeals will be considered for the remainder of the graduate nursing program.

## **GRADES AND STANDARDS**

All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA/B average in order to be considered in good academic standing. The following represents the grading standards for all graduate work at William Paterson University.

A course grade of A indicates an achievement of distinction. It marks work of excellence expressed in an exemplary manner.

A course grade of B indicates the acceptable standard of achievement. It reflects excellence in some aspect of the following areas: completeness and accuracy of knowledge, sustained and effective use of this knowledge, ability to work independently in the specific area, and originality in quality and execution.

For students who matriculated **prior to summer 2025**, a course grade of C+ or lower needs to be repeated per policy.

Students who matriculated **summer 2025 and later**, a course grade of B- or lower needs to be repeated per policy.

A course grade of F indicates that the student has not demonstrated work of sufficient quality and quantity. No grade points.

A course grade of WD (withdrawal) indicates official withdrawal and has no effect on grade point average.

A course grade of IN (incomplete) indicates that the student has not completed all the work required in a course. Unless the work is completed within 30 days immediately following the end of the semester, the IN grade will automatically change to an F.

### **TIME LIMIT TO COMPLETION**

A master's degree, certification, or endorsement program must be completed within a period of six years from the time the student matriculates. The time to completion includes leaves of absences, withdrawals, thesis, and comprehensive examinations. The appropriate college dean must approve requests for extension of time. See specific program requirements unless otherwise indicated.

<b>GRADUATE NURSING GRADING SCALE</b>		
<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>	<b>Number Grade</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>93.51 - 100</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>89.51 - 93.5</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>86.51 - 89.5</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>83.51 - 86.5</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>79.51 - 83.5</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>76.51 - 79.5</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>73.51 - 76.5</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>69.51 - 73.5</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>Below 69.50</b>
Rev. July 2017		

## WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY

### **Overview**

A withdrawal from the University will not be refused to any matriculated graduate student. The student must complete appropriate withdrawal forms, which remove them from courses without academic penalty. A withdrawal is for an indefinite length of time and is in force until the student chooses to apply for readmission. Withdrawal is not dropping a course. It involves dropping all courses.

### **Guidelines**

Nonattendance of classes does not constitute withdrawal from the University. Graduate students who wish to leave the University during the academic year are required to go to WP CONNECT (<https://wpconnect.wpunj.edu/portal/>) and officially withdraw.

Students who withdraw from the University must apply for readmission through Graduate Admissions according to the admissions calendar. Readmission is not automatic; enrollment and other considerations may preclude return during a particular semester.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- See link for eligibility <https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/academic-regulations/leave.html>
- Refunds after the course drop deadline WILL NOT be considered under any circumstances.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

### **Overview**

A student may identify an area of interest that he or she wishes to pursue in depth on an individual study basis. The proposal for independent study must be developed with the faculty member who has agreed to provide faculty supervision and be submitted to the Graduate Program Director for approval. See graduate catalog for further information.

### **Policy**

No more than 3 credits of independent study may be applied toward the Master of Science Degree in nursing.

## **Procedure**

Complete the Independent Study Application form (available by contacting the Graduate Nursing Office) and submit it to the Graduate Program Director. The proposal should be submitted to the Graduate Program Director by the middle of the term preceding the one in which the independent study will be pursued. Additionally, a description of project, objectives, strategies for achieving objectives, criteria for evaluation, and number of credits should be submitted with the form. The prepared written proposal must be signed by the faculty supervising the project. The form will be forwarded to the School of Nursing Chairperson who if he/she approves of the proposal, will direct it to the Dean for approval. A signature from the Dean will constitute permission for the student to register for the independent study. Student must bring the Independent Study Application to the Office of the Registrar in Morrison Hall.

At the completion of the independent study project, the student must present the completed study or written report to the faculty supervisor for evaluation. Upon successful completion of the independent study project, the student will receive academic credit.

Faculty who agrees to supervise independent study do so in addition to their regular course load.

## **INCOMPLETE COURSE WORK**

### **Overview**

For various reasons, a student may receive an incomplete (IN) in lieu of a letter grade. The following policy ensures a consistent approach to the completion of IN grades. In special cases, the Graduate Program Director and/or the School of Nursing Chairperson can and will review petitions from faculty on behalf of a student regarding the policy.

### **Policy**

The grade of incomplete (IN) can be granted when the student has not completed the assigned work in a course because of illness or other reasons satisfactory to the instructor. The grade of IN is at the discretion of the instructor. **Unless the work is completed within thirty days immediately following the end of the semester, the IN grade will automatically change to an F (Pending special or extenuating circumstances).**

A student failing to complete the assigned work to remove the IN will be required to drop the subsequent course. University regulations require the removal of the incomplete within thirty days of the end of the semester. In unusual and compelling situations, an extension may be recommended by the Graduate Program Director and approved by the Dean. A specific plan for completion is required for an extension to be approved as follows.

### **Procedure**

The student must discuss his or her request for incomplete status with the instructor. If the incomplete status is acceptable to the instructor, the student obtains the form on-line "**Request for Incomplete Status,**" from this handbook; the student completes the form as instructed.

If an extension of time is required, the student and instructor must inform the Graduate Program Director.

THE WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN NURSING  
**REQUEST FOR INCOMPLETE STATUS FORM**

Instructions:

A student requesting incomplete status in a course should first discuss the matter with the instructor and the faculty advisor. The form should be returned to the Graduate Program Director by the instructor. This form should then be completed and the necessary signatures obtained.

Copies will be made and sent to the student, the instructor, and the student's faculty advisor. On completion of the course, a Change of Grade form must be submitted by the instructor.

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number (home#): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (business #): \_\_\_\_\_

Student I.D. number: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Course number: \_\_\_\_\_ Course title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date incomplete is to be removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for requesting incomplete status:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR REGARDING THE DATE  
AND CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL OF THE INCOMPLETE GRADE

Faculty comments:

(Student's signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Instructor's signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes, laboratory periods and other academic exercises. Students are responsible for all work required in courses. The instructor shall determine the effect of absences upon grades and may permit or deny the privilege of making up work, including examinations, within the time limits of the semester.

In the event of a prolonged absence, a student is advised to consult with Graduate Admissions, Morrison Hall room 102, (973)-720-3577.

## **STUDENT COURSE END EVALUATION**

### **Overview**

At the end of each semester students are required to complete an online Course End Evaluation Form which will be provided by the faculty teaching the course. The evaluation is of the course itself and not the faculty teaching the course. The student's evaluation of course(s) assures maintenance of quality in the curriculum. Student input is valued as a means to revise and update courses in the graduate program.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

### **Policy:**

All nursing students in a clinical/lab course are required to have health insurance. All students must provide documentation of health insurance coverage.

## **WRITTEN PAPERS**

### **Overview**

The faculty of William Paterson University, School of Nursing believe that scholarship in written communications is essential for the advancement of the profession and recognize the need for improving the quality of students' written work during the educational process. The following guidelines for both students and faculty provide direction for the preparation of scholarly written assignments and a consistent standard for evaluation of students' assignments.

### **Standards**

The manual of style to be used in the preparation of all submitted written assignments, e.g., term papers, and clinical papers, is the "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (APA) (current edition). The manual of style must be identified in the bibliography of all submitted written assignments. Students must submit original work. Sources of documentation and/or quotations must be acknowledged according to APA style. Omission of proper documentation is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is cause for disciplinary action. See Academic Integrity in the student handbook.

It is the prerogative of individual faculty members to outline additional requirements for written assignments. When additional requirements are imposed, they will be given in writing, in conjunction with the guidelines for the assignment.

## **Email**

Due to the new FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) we can **only** contact students via their WPUNJ student email address.

It is the student's responsibility to check their WPUNJ email on a regular basis. All group emails will also be sent to the student's WPUNJ email address.

## **Email Communication Policy**

There is an increasing need for fast and efficient communication with currently enrolled students in order to conduct official business at William Paterson University. Each student is issued a unique University ID number (855 ID) and an email account for use throughout the time the student is enrolled for classes at the University. Accordingly, email is a formal communication by the University.

Email shall be considered an official form of communication by William Paterson University unless otherwise prohibited by law. The University reserves the right to send official communications to students by email with the full expectation that students will receive email, read these emails and respond accordingly in a timely fashion.

Official University email accounts are created for all accepted students and will be treated as directory information. The domain name for an official University email account is “**@student.wpunj.edu**”. Official University communications will be sent to students' official University email addresses.

Students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. Students must insure that there is sufficient space in their email accounts to allow for email to be delivered. Students have the responsibility for recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. Emails being returned due to “Mailbox Full” or “error forwarding” messages are not acceptable excuses for missing official University communications via email.

Students who choose to have their email forwarded to a private (unofficial) email address outside the official University network address do so at their own risk. The University is not responsible for any difficulties that may occur in the proper or timely transmission or access of email forwarded to any unofficial email address, and any such problems will not absolve students of their responsibility to know and comply with the content of official communications sent to students' official William Paterson University email addresses.

## **GRADUATE NURSING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE**

Student representatives from the Graduate Program are non-voting members of the following faculty committees:

Curriculum Committee  
Assessment & Evaluation Committee  
DNP Program Committee  
Graduate Program Committee

An email will be sent at the beginning of each semester to all students for their participation in the above committees.

## **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Educational Support Program (ESP) has been an established part of the Graduate Program in the School of Nursing since 1999. It reflects a commitment to support graduate students toward the successful completion of the program in nursing. Any student, matriculated, non-matriculated or visiting may use the ESP as a resource to assist in their academic success at William Paterson University. The program is coordinated by a master prepared nurse. ESP services primarily assist students by offering academic writing assistance and serves as a referral resource to other university services that facilitate academic success. There is no cost for utilizing ESP services. Contact Professor Renee F. Pevour, RN, MS AOCN is available at [pevourr@wpunj.edu](mailto:pevourr@wpunj.edu), telephone: 973-720-3516.

Helpful information <http://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/nursing/student-success/>

### **ESP Writing Assistance**

- Assistance with developing an outline to answer the question to be addressed
- Term paper organization as it relates to nursing
- Direction for grammar and style resources for self-improvement
- Does not include proofreading or editing

### **Cost**

There is no cost for utilizing ESP services.

### **ESP and Strategies for Success**

- Appointments must be made at least one week in advance to discuss test taking strategies, time management, reading techniques, methods for good note taking, an evaluation of study habits, test taking strategies and managing anxiety and stress.
- SPSS Workshops are arranged on a Saturday or evenings to accommodate the graduate student's schedule.

## **Academic Support Services**

- **Cheng Library** - Access Services Librarian at WPUNJ: 973-720-3190 or at <https://www.wpunj.edu/library/>
- **Academic Success Center**, Offers tutoring in a variety of general education courses. Students in the Master's program utilize the faculty tutors for increasing understanding statistics. <http://www.wpunj.edu/academics/asc/>
- **Writing Center** - Preakness Hall - 973-720-2633. The William Paterson University Writing Center provides one-on-one tutoring for anyone in the university community working on any kind of writing in any stage of development. Tutorial sessions typically take thirty minutes to an hour, with options for online sessions: <https://wpunj.mywconline.com/>
- **Writing Resources** - Students can also access tutor.com. Tutor.com provides 24/7 writing assistance, both live and submitting papers for review.
- **Accessibility Resource Center** (formerly the Office of Disability Services) - assists students with documented disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations and services that ensures equal access to all programs, activities, and related benefits of the University's educational and professional program link <https://www.wpunj.edu/accessibilityresourcecenter/> OR Phone: 973-720-2853 Fax: 973-720-3293
- **Health and Wellness Center** (Ext. 2360) and the **Counseling Center** (Ext. 2762) also offer student services.
- Tutor.com for proofreading of papers <http://www.tutor.com/>

### **Types of Tutoring and Availability:**

The SEC will continue to serve your students seven days a week, days and evenings, to increase accessibility. Tutoring will be both face-to-face and online.

Tutoring starts Wednesday, September 1st.

Scheduling:

**Face-to-Face sessions** will be scheduled by students through the SEC in person as in previous years.

Face-to-Face schedules are located at <https://www.wpunj.edu/sec/schedules/>.

Students have also been provided with further information at <https://www.wpunj.edu/sec/secacadserv.html>

**Online sessions** will be scheduled online through WP Online at <https://wpunj.mywconline.com/>

A guide is available to help them with this registration <https://www.wpunj.edu/sec/staff-and-faculty/SECOonline.pdf>. Online tutoring will be through synchronous videoconferencing (ZOOM).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/SCHOLARSHIPS

1. There are various financial assistance programs for which the student can apply using a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, which is described in the University Catalog.
2. Applications for Graduate Student Assistantships are available in the Office of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment upon matriculation at Morrison Hall, or online at:  
<http://www.wpunj.edu/admissions/graduate/>
3. For information regarding additional financial aid loans visit the Financial Aid website.

**William Paterson University - Graduate Nursing Program**  
**MSN Program Curriculum**

**CORE COURSES (12 credits)**

**credits**

NUR 5001 Theoretical Foundations for Nursing	3
NUR 5081 The Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse	3
NUR 5701 Population Health, Legislation and Social Policy	3
NUR 6021 Nursing Research Strategies: Translational Science	3

**ADULT/GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK (27 credits)**

**APRN Core Courses**

NUR/BIO 5461 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 6001 Advanced Health Assessment of the Adult Client	3
NUR 6011 Advanced Pharmacology	3

**Specialization Courses**

NUR 6041 Advanced Nursing Practicum I	4 (170 clinical hours)
NUR 6111 Advanced Practice Nursing I	3
NUR 6121 Advanced Practice Nursing II	3
NUR 7011 Advanced Nursing Practicum II	4 (170 clinical hours)
NUR 7252 Role Practicum for AGNP	4 (170 clinical hours)

<b>Total credits for graduation</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total supervised hours</b>	<b>510</b>

**FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK (35 credits)**

**APRN Core Courses**

NUR/BIO 5461 Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
NUR 6001 Advanced Health Assessment of the Adult Client	3	9 credits
NUR 6011 Advanced Pharmacology	3	

**Specialization Courses**

NUR 6041 Advanced Nursing Practicum I	4 (170 clinical hours)
NUR 6111 Advanced Practice Nursing I	3
NUR 6121 Advanced Practice Nursing II	3 18 credits
NUR 6130 Advanced Practice Nursing III	3
NUR 6211 Advanced Health Assessment of the Pediatric and Childbearing Client	1
NUR 7011 Advanced Nursing Practicum II	4 (170 clinical hours)
NUR 7070 Advanced Nursing Practicum III	4 (50 OB 120 PEDS = 170 clinical hours)
NUR 7253 Role Practicum for FNP	4 (170 clinical hours)

<b>Total credits for graduation</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total supervised hours</b>	<b>680</b>

**EDUCATION TRACK (23 credits)**

**Core Courses** 12

**Specialization Courses**

NUR 6050 Curriculum Development 3  
NUR 6061 Classroom Teaching Strategies 4 (45 clinical hours)  
NUR 7060 Clinical Teaching Strategies 3  
NUR 5461 Advanced Pathophysiology 3  
NUR 6001 Advanced Health Assessment of the Adult Client 3  
NUR 6011 Advanced Pharmacology 3  
NUR 7254 Role Practicum for Educator 4 (170 clinical hours)

**Total Credits for graduation** 35

**Total Supervised Hours** 215

**ADMINISTRATION TRACK (23 credits)**

**Core Courses** 12

**Specialization Courses**

NUR 6070 Principles of Nursing Administration 3  
NUR 6080 Financial Mgmt of Community Agencies 3  
MGT 6040 Management Theory 3  
ACCT 6060 Financial Accounting for Managers 3  
MKT 6080 Marketing Management 3  
  
NUR 7255 Role Practicum for Administrator 4 (170 clinical hours)

**Total credits for graduation** 31

**Total Supervised Hours** 170

## PLANNING YOUR PROGRAM

Students are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor to determine the most appropriate course progression.

During the fall, spring, and summer semesters, students may enroll in up to two courses per session (Session I and Session II), for a maximum of four courses per semester.

- **Full-time enrollment:** 9–12 or more credits per semester (fall, spring, and summer)
- **Part-time enrollment:** 1–8 credits per semester (fall, spring, and summer)

## CLINICAL COURSES

All clinical clearance documentation requirements are due **14 days prior** to the start of the clinical course. If a student is not cleared 7 days prior to the start of the first day of their clinical course, they will be administratively dropped without warning.

**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Requirements prior to starting MSN graduate clinical courses:**

1. Completed all nursing pre-requisites
2. Submission/approval of Student & Preceptor Information Request Form in Exxat
3. Completion of signed Confirmation of Clinical Placement Form - Signed & returned by preceptor.
4. Completed contract if required by agency. Signed by facility & university.
5. Health clearance (compliance documents) through Exxat – **All clinical clearance documentation requirements are due 14 days prior to the start of the clinical course.** If a student is not cleared 7 days prior to the start of the first day of their clinical course, they will be administratively dropped without warning. NO EXCEPTIONS  
Student needs to upload COVID vaccine/religious exemption in Exxat. The exemption needs to be approved by practicum site prior start of clinical hours.
6. Completed Urine Drug Screen - Result of "Approved" through Universal (Students must go through Universal).
7. Completed Background Check - Result of "Approved" through Universal (Students must go through Universal). Complete initial background check first. Only complete the recheck if the initial background check is about to expire or has expired.

## **Post Masters Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care Certificate Program**

### **The Program**

The program is designed for professional registered nurses who have previously earned a Masters degree with a major in nursing and who now want to become certified as Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioners. Students in the certificate program will complete the necessary theory and practicum course requirements in this track in order to be eligible to sit for the Adult Nurse Practitioner certification examination (American Association of Nurse Practitioners or American Nurses Credentialing Center). The Graduate Program is accredited until June 30, 2030 by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNEAccreditation.org), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington DC 20001, telephone: 202.887.6791.

### **Objectives:**

1. Competently assess, diagnose, manage, and evaluate care for adult gerontology clients and families across the lifespan
2. Articulate the professional role including the ethical code of conduct and the scope of advanced nursing practice
3. Develop and monitor comprehensive plans of care that address the health promotion and disease prevention needs of diverse client populations
4. Assess and monitor teaching/learning needs in diverse client populations

### **Admission Requirements**

Completion of Post Master Certificate application and fee to the Office of Graduate Admission and Enrollment Services and fee. For more information contact Office of Graduate Admissions, Morrison Hall room 102, 973-720-3641, graduate@wpunj.edu

- Submission of official transcript of a MSN degree in nursing
- Copy of current unencumbered RN license in the state you are practicing
- Resume

### **Requirements**

The current MSN in the adult gerontology nurse practitioner requires 39 credits. Students in the certificate program will need to complete a minimum of 27 credits. A gap analysis of your master's courses will be reviewed.

### **Course Requirements**

		<b><u>Credits</u></b>
NUR 5461	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 6001	Advanced Health Assessment of the Adult Client	3
NUR 6011	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 6041	Advanced Nursing Practicum I	4
NUR 6111	Advanced Practice Nursing I	3
NUR 6121	Advanced Practice Nursing II	3
NUR 7011	Advanced Nursing Practicum II	4
NUR 7252	Advanced Nursing Role Practicum for AGNP	4

### **A total of 510 supervised clinical hours are required for AGNP**

Students may be required to complete NUR 5081, The Role of the APN (3) credits, as an additional prerequisite if they have not completed a graduate level role course.

Students in the certificate program will attend classes with current master's students. Upon completion of the required coursework, the certificate student will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination and upon passing, to apply for an advanced practice nursing license in the state in which you practice.

# Post Masters Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

## **The Program**

The program is designed for professional registered nurses who have previously earned a Master's degree with a major in nursing and who now want to become eligible to be certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Students in the Post - Masters Certificate Program will complete the necessary theory and practicum course requirements in the track in order to be eligible to sit for the Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination (American Association of Nurse Practitioners or American Nurses Credentialing Center). The Graduate Program is accredited until June 30, 2030 by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNEAccreditation.org), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington DC 20001, telephone: 202.887.6791.

## **Objectives:**

1. Competently assess, diagnose, manage, and evaluate care for adult gerontology clients and families across the lifespan
2. Articulate the professional role including the ethical code of conduct and the scope of advanced nursing practice
3. Develop and monitor comprehensive plans of care that address the health promotion and disease prevention needs of diverse client populations
4. Assess and monitor teaching/learning needs in diverse client populations

## **Admission Requirements:**

- Submission of official transcript of a MSN degree in nursing
- Copy of current unencumbered RN license in the state you are practicing
- Resume

For more information contact Office of Graduate Admissions, Morrison Hall room 102, 973-720-3641, [graduate@wpunj.edu](mailto:graduate@wpunj.edu)

**Requirements:** The current MSN in the FNP program requires 47 credits. Students in the certificate program will need to complete a minimum of 35 credits. A gap analysis of your previous master's courses will be reviewed.

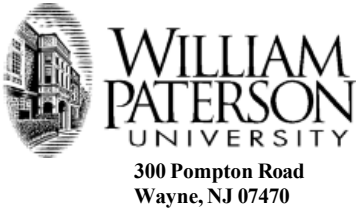
## **Course Requirements**

	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
-NUR 5461 - Advanced Pathophysiology	3
-NUR 6001 - Advanced Health Assessment	3
-NUR 6011 – Advanced Pharmacology	3
-NUR 6041 - Adv. Nursing Practicum I	4
-NUR 6111 - Advanced Practice Nursing I	3
-NUR 6121 - Advanced Practice Nursing II	3
-NUR 6130 - Advanced Practice Nursing III	3
-NUR 6210- Adv. Health Assessment for FNP	1
-NUR 7011 - Adv. Nursing Practicum II	4
-NUR 7070- Adv. Nursing Practicum III	4
-NUR 7253. - Adv. Nursing Role Practicum for FNP	4

A total of 680 supervised clinical hours are required.

Students may be required to complete NUR 5081, The Role of the APN (3) credits, as an additional prerequisite if they have not completed a graduate level role course.

Students in the certificate program will attend classes with current masters' students. Upon completion of the required coursework, the certificate student will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination and upon passing to apply for an advanced practice nursing license in the state in which you are licensed to practice.



**School of Nursing - Graduate Program  
Post Masters Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in Primary  
Care Program Gap Analysis**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

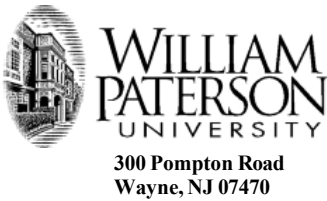
<b>List Required courses for the desired NP area of practice</b>	<b>List courses from transcript that satisfy required courses listed in column 1 and verification of hours</b>	<b>Type and number of clinical experiences needed by student</b>	<b>Coursework to be completed by the student for the Certificate</b>	<b>Course- Date Completed</b>
NUR 5081 – The Role of the APN				
NUR 5461 – Adv. Pathophysiology				
NUR 6001– Adv. Health Assessment of the Adult Client				
NUR 6010 – Adv. Pharmacology				
NUR 6111 – Adv Practice Nursing I				
NUR 6121 – Adv Practice Nursing II				
NUR 6041 – Adv Nursing Practicum I		170 hours		
NUR 7011 – Adv Nursing Practicum II		170 hours		
NUR 7252 – Adv Role Practicum for AGNP		170 hours		

Comments:

Signature (NP Lead Coordinator) \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Awarded: Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Program Director) \_



**School of Nursing – Graduate Program  
Post Masters Family Nurse Practitioner Program - Gap Analysis**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>List Required courses for the desired NP area of practice</b>	<b>List courses from transcript that satisfy required courses listed in column 1 and verification of clinical hours</b>	<b>Type and number of clinical experiences needed by student</b>	<b>Coursework to be completed by the student for the Certificate</b>	<b>Course- Date Completed</b>
NUR 5081 – The Role of the APN				
NUR 5461 – Adv Pathophysiology				
NUR 6001 – Adv. Health Assessment of the Adult Client				
NUR 6211 – Advanced Health Assessment for FNP’s				
NUR 6011 – Adv. Pharmacology				
NUR 6111 – Adv Practice Nursing I				
NUR 6121 – Adv Practice Nursing II				
NUR 6041 – Adv Nursing Practicum I		170 hours		
NUR 6130 – Advanced Practice Nursing III				
NUR 7011 – Adv Nursing Practicum II		170 hours		
NUR 7070 – Advanced Nursing Practicum III		170 hours		
NUR 7253 – Adv Role Practicum for FNP		170 hours		

Comments:

Signature (NP Lead Coordinator) \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate Awarded:  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Program Director) \_\_\_\_\_

## CLINICAL PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

### Overview

You are encouraged to seek out a preceptor and a potential site for your practicum experience. The preceptor must be willing and able to oversee your practicum experience in the location you choose appropriate to the role. Students are required to fill out a Preceptor Information Form. Form can be found in the [AGNP/FNP Handbook](#) or [ADT/EDT Handbook](#). Please include the name, title and credentials of the prospective preceptor when filling out this form. If you are unable to propose such an arrangement, please contact our office and we can assist you in facilitating the process. Any changes, additions/deletion of clinical preceptors must be sent to the Online Clinical Coordinator, by email at: [sosobani@wpunj.edu](mailto:sosobani@wpunj.edu). Changes after the deadline may take an additional two months to complete the agreements and confirmation. See [AGNP/FNP Handbook](#) or [ADT/EDT Handbook](#) for deadline dates.

Upon receipt of the Preceptor Information Request Form, for AGNP and FNP students, the Online Clinical Coordinator will forward to the Online NP coordinator for approval of the clinical site/ preceptor. For education and administration students, the Director of the Graduate Program will review preceptors/placements. Upon approval, a letter, preceptor certification of clinical placement form, course outline and responsibilities in the preceptor partnership will be sent to the clinical preceptor and/or agency. **Until the signed Confirmation of Clinical Placement form is returned to our office, students are NOT to start their clinical. (The Preceptor Information Sheet is NOT the same as the Confirmation of Clinical Placement form).** The Confirmation of Clinical Placement form is considered a “contract” between WPUNJ and the clinical preceptor/agency. It is the responsibility of the student to follow this process. You will be sent an email from Ivy Sosoban, the Online Clinical Coordinator, when she receives the signed **Confirmation of Clinical Placement for Graduate Student form** from your preceptor.

If a facility requires a formal affiliation contract with William Paterson University and does not currently have one, the student needs to notify the Online Clinical Coordinator 6 months in advance prior to the start of their clinical course.

Students will only be able to select clinical placements in the state student is licensed. Students enrolling in NUR 7252 (AGNP) and NUR 7253 (FNP) – Advanced Nursing Role Practicum must have a nurse practitioner as their preceptor in this course.

In addition, it is the responsibility of students to show proof of compliance on the Nursing Clinical Documentation Checklist form required for clinical placements every semester. The student is responsible for checking their clinical clearance on Exxat. The student uploads the information in the Student and Preceptor Information Request Form in Exxat under the My Request wishlist found under coursework. The student must also upload a copy the preceptor’s curriculum vitae (cv)/resume. Place the preceptor request under the course # and semester that the practicum will be taking place.

Upon completion of the course, you must submit to the faculty teaching the practicum course all completed logs (with clinical hour verification), preceptor/site evaluations, and evaluation of personal learning objectives. You will not receive a grade in the course until the submission and course requirements are completed.

## WP ONLINE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PRECEPTOR PARTNERSHIP

The student, preceptor, and faculty have equal responsibility for providing a quality learning experience in the practicum. There are, however, specific responsibilities for each participant. This is necessary to promote student progress and role expectations. A pre-practicum meeting with the student and preceptor facilitates mutual understanding of the responsibilities of all parties. These responsibilities are identified as follows:

### Student Responsibilities

1. Participates in selection of qualified preceptor (s).
2. Complete 170 clinical practicum hours for each practicum course (ie: 24.3 hours/week for 7 weeks).
3. Develops and completes an informal learning contract in accord with William Paterson University course objectives and agency policies.
4. It is the responsibility of students to show proof of compliance on the Nursing Clinical Documentation Checklist forms required for clinical placements every semester by uploading documents in Exxat and checking the status of their clinical clearance. **All health clinical clearance requirements (compliance requirements in Exxat) are due 14 days prior to the start of the clinical course. If a student is not cleared 7 days prior to the start of the first day of their clinical course, they will be administratively dropped without warning. NO EXCEPTIONS**
5. Completes the requirements on the Clinical Documentation Checklist no later than the first day of the clinical semester.
6. All graduate students are to report any criminal arrest or conviction immediately to Graduate Nursing Program and to the preceptor's supervisor. Our policy also requires that our Graduate Nursing Program report any arrests or convictions to the place they are precepting.
7. Maintains on-going student-preceptor relationship for duration of the practicum.
8. Keeps faculty informed of progress related to course objectives.
9. Keeps faculty informed of advanced practice nurse role progress.
10. Seeks faculty consultation on appropriate issues.
11. Practices in a safe and ethical manner cognizant of standards of care management/administration, education care, management/administration, education.
12. Submits practicum experience logs/narratives to faculty in a timely manner.
13. Completes assignments as identified in the course syllabus.
14. Completes required practicum hours with preceptor.

Flynn Ohara. You want the **WPU logo** on the lab coat and for the name badge **WPUNJ NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENT** for AGNP/FNP tracks or **WPUNJ ADM STUDENT** or **WPUNJ EDU STUDENT** for ADT/EDT tracks.

This is the site specific to WPU students to order: Lab coats: <http://www.flynnohara.com/school/nj196>

Name badge should state **first and last name**: <https:wpunjgrad.lonestarbadge.com>

Robert Rose, Business Development  
10905 Dutton Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154  
Work: 1-800-441-4122 x 8108  
Cell: 215-287-3722  
[www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)

### Faculty Responsibilities

1. May recommend a qualified preceptor (with student participation)/clinical placement.
2. Verified student has completed the clinical Checklist Documentation form requirement by the first clinical course.
3. Approves a student-preceptor learning contract.
4. Maintains communication with student and preceptor in relation to student progress and a minimum of one site visit with student and preceptor.
5. Encourages student scholarly inquiry through the use of nursing and related research in clinical practice, management/administration, or education tracks.
6. Facilitates student/faculty seminar discussions of advanced specialized practice.
7. Facilitates seminar discussions relative to the role of the advanced practice nurse, manager/administrator or educator.
8. Assess and evaluate student progress with input from student and preceptor.
9. Reviews student practicum experiences/logs/narratives with feedback.
10. Assures completion of practicum hours and submits logs/narratives at the end of the semester and submits this to the Graduate Program Assistant.
11. Complies with University and School of Nursing assessments, student evaluation of Preceptor & Clinical Agency and student's logs with cumulative earned hours.
12. Submits a grade on WPCConnect for the student at the end of the semester.
13. Communicates with the WP Online Graduate Coordinator and/or Graduate Program Director violations of policy, unsafe/unethical practices.

### Preceptor Responsibilities

1. Reads William Paterson University Preceptor Handbook of Policies and Procedures available on the graduate nursing website – [handbooks](#), and familiarize self with curriculum content.
2. Uses theories of adult instruction and learning in the education of the student.
3. Provides experiences that reflect the role of advanced practice nurse, manager/administrator and educator as defined by the needs of the client population and expertise of the preceptor.
4. Supervises students' learning experience.
5. Maintains an on-going supervisory relationship for the duration of the practicum which promotes students' use of advanced specialized knowledge.
6. Guides student in the selection of agency activities that promote students' progress in the role of the advanced practice nurse, administrator and/or educator.
7. Encourages student involvement in the identification of research problems, collaboration with nurse researchers, and utilization of research findings among staff.
8. Communicates with faculty relative to student progress and facilitate faculty observation of student.
9. Guides student in achieving goals relative to the informal learning contract and participate in the evaluation of those goals.

## **BENEFITS FOR PRECEPTORS**

- Will be granted the title of Clinical Preceptor
  - Opportunity to guest lecture or lead a seminar in area of expertise.
  - Receive a Certificate of Appreciation and Acknowledgement from the Graduate Program.
  - Will receive a thank you letter from the Graduate Nursing Program and ANCC Verification of Hours form at the end of the semester (if applicable.)
- 

### **Site visits & facilitation of clinical activities**

The faculty member will make scheduled visit(s) to the clinical site (a minimum of one visit is expected). The date and time are confirmed with the student. It is the student's responsibility to inform the preceptor of the date/time of the visit. Purpose of the site visit include observation and evaluation of the student's role performance (practitioner, educator or administrator) behaviors and the student's interaction with staff and preceptor. Additionally, it provides the faculty member, the preceptor and the student an opportunity to discuss the student's progress. Faculty will document site visit via Site Visit Observation Form.

### **Evaluation of student**

The course syllabus and clinical evaluation forms include the requirements and evaluation criteria for successful student performance. Evaluations by the faculty member with input from the preceptor are important components of the student performance. Open communication between the faculty, preceptor and student is essential. Faculty assumes the ultimate responsibility for the evaluation of the student and employ several methods to achieve this. This includes at least one visit of clinical practicum site with preceptor, student, and faculty; Regular review of student's clinical documentation via Exxat. Assessment of student's clinical experiences/practice, along with review of supportive evidence from clinical preceptor.

## **Specific Guidelines for Students in Clinical Facilities**

1. Students are to negotiate acceptable hours with the preceptor prior to starting clinical practicum. The student is expected to accommodate the preceptor's availability and schedule. The student's personal and work schedules are expected to accommodate participation in the required number of clinical hours specified by the clinical course.
2. Professional apparel that meets agency guidelines is expected. Conservative and professional dress clothing and a lab coat are the norm. No jeans, shorts, running shoes, bare midriff, or low-cut clothing are allowed in an agency.
3. Graduate Nursing students will demonstrate professional behavior during all placements in all settings, following the legal and ethical codes of nursing. Student behavior that is considered unsafe, according to the professional judgment of the faculty/preceptor or agency, is cause for immediate removal from the clinical site and faculty/administrative review for continuation in the nursing program.
4. The student will work within the policies of the agency and maintain a constructive relationship with the agency.
5. It is the responsibility of students to show proof of compliance on the Nursing Clinical Documentation Checklist forms required for clinical placements every semester by uploading documents in Exxat and checking the status of their clinical clearance. **All clinical clearance documentation requirements are due 14 days prior to the start of the clinical course. If a student is not cleared 7 days prior to the start of the first day of their clinical course, they will be administratively dropped without warning. NO EXCEPTIONS.** These forms can be found on the <https://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/nursing/graduate-programs/clinical-track-forms.html>.
6. The graduate student WPUNJ ID card is worn only when the student is participating in or involved in experiences related to the graduate student role.
7. The student is responsible for her or his individual travel or other costs related to clinical experiences.
8. White lab coats are required for all nurse practitioner students in the clinical practica. You want the **WPU logo** on lab coat and "**WPUNJ Nurse Practitioner Student**" on your name badge, with your **first and last name**. This is the site specific to WPU students to order lab coats: [www.flynnohara.com/school/nj096](http://www.flynnohara.com/school/nj096)  
Robert Rose, Business Development  
10905 Dutton Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154  
Work: 1-800-441-4122 x 8108  
Cell: 215-287-3722  
[www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)

**All students are required to purchase a white lab coat with the WPU logo on it, along with a name badge that states first and last name, with the identification of WPUNJ Nurse Practitioner Student.**

**Link to order the NP badges <https://wpunjgrad.lonestarbadge.com/>**

**Link to order the lab coats. [www.flynnohara.com/school/nj096](http://www.flynnohara.com/school/nj096)**

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

## WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Graduate Program  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973-720-3501

### ONLINE MSN PRACTICUM / PRECEPTOR INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

### Submission Deadline Dates

Spring 1: Sept 30    Spring2: Nov 30    Summer 1: March 30    Summer 2: April 30    Fall 1: May 31    Fall 2: July 31

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_  
(Fall, Spring, Summer)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practicum Course # NUR \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate Program \_\_\_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_\_\_ No

Track \_\_\_\_\_  
(AGNP)                      (FNP)                      (Administration)                      (Educator)

Student's Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Preceptor Name & Credentials:

Population Focus (& specialty if applicable) Area of Practice \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor's Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor **Business** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II

Preceptor's Unit/Type of Site  
(e.g., clinic, private practice, primary care setting, etc.)

General Characteristics of Patients in the clinical site:

- a) Gender
- b) age (children, young adult, adult, elderly)
- c) ethnicity
- d) primary languages spoken in office

Healthcare experience  
(e.g., primary care, chronic, in-hospital)

### FOR THE STUDENT:

You are encouraged to seek out a preceptor and a potential site for your practicum experience. The preceptor must be willing and able to oversee your practicum experience in the location you choose appropriate to the role. Please include the name, title and credentials of the prospective preceptor when filling out this form. If any of the required fields are missing, note that it will delay processing your paperwork. Upload information in Exxat under coursework. Any changes, additions/deletion of clinical preceptors must be emailed to Ivy at: [sosobani@wpunj.edu](mailto:sosobani@wpunj.edu).

Changes after the deadline may take an additional two months to complete the agreements and confirmation. Upon approval, a confirmation of clinical placement form, course outline and responsibilities in the preceptor partnership will be sent to the clinical preceptor and/or agency. Until the signed confirmation of the clinical placement form is returned to our office, students are NOT to start their clinical. The confirmation of clinical placement form is considered a "contract" between the WPUNJ and the clinical preceptor/agency. If the signed confirmation of clinical placement form is not received by the due date as outlined in the WP Online Clinical Requirement Video, the student must drop all clinical classes, and resume the following semester on a seat availability basis. It is the responsibility of the student to follow this process. You will receive an email from the Online Clinical Coordinator once we receive the signed Confirmation of Clinical Placement form from your preceptor.

**\*All clinical clearance documentation requirements are due 14 days prior to the start of the clinical course. If a student is not cleared 7 days prior to the start of the first day of their clinical course, they will be administratively dropped without warning. NO EXCEPTIONS**

**\*Clinical placement is only finalized when all requirements (compliance, preceptor/faculty, location/contract, overall status) have been approved.**

## Part III

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY PRECEPTOR:**

NP Preceptor complete a-f, MD Preceptor complete d-f

- a) Certification (specify type e.g. adult or family) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) (specify certifying body e.g. ANCC or AANP) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) (specify expiration date) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Years of practice in the population focused or specialty area: \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Number of students precepted concurrently: \_\_\_\_\_
- f) State licensure # \_\_\_\_\_ expiration  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please also upload a copy of your preceptor's CV or Resume in Exxat (REQUIRED)**

NP's - please make sure your certification & expiration dates for ANCC and/or AANP are on your CV/Resume. This is a requirement of our accreditor, CCNE.

\*William Paterson University Graduate Nursing Program does not provide honorariums for services as a preceptor.

**\*Clinical placement is only finalized when all requirements (compliance, preceptor/faculty, location/contract, overall status) have been approved.**

Rev: 2024

## **DRUG SCREENING AND TESTING: POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

### **Policy Statement**

William Paterson University and the School of Nursing are committed to providing a quality education for students admitted into the Nursing Program. In order to protect the integrity of the Nursing Program and the nursing profession and to safeguard the welfare of nursing students and patients receiving treatment from these students, this policy addresses drug and alcohol testing of nursing students involved in clinical activities. The purpose of this policy is to notify the student and faculty of the University's rules and testing procedures and to provide assistance and due process for students who test positive for drugs or alcohol. This policy applies to all students admitted to the Nursing Program and is effective immediately. It is the policy of William Paterson University to comply with federal and state laws and regulations dealing with the usage and detection of drugs and alcohol.

This policy is subject to change at the sole discretion of the University and is meant to supplement other relevant University policies including, but not limited to, the Alcohol and Drug Policy and the Drug-Free Workplace Policy. In addition, students must comply with individual clinical institution drug policies. All costs associated with services beyond those offered on campus are the sole responsibility of the student. Examples of this are: baseline drug testing, drug testing for a cause, remediation, or higher level of drug treatment (such as an inpatient drug treatment facility).

The goals of patient safety and optimizing student performance are at risk when a student is present who is under the influence of these substances. Nursing students involved in clinical activities must uphold the standards of the nursing profession to ensure safe, effective, and supportive client care. Because a student may have altered judgment and skills, appropriate management of abuse and addiction is critical for nursing education and practice.

Students who have admitted to previous drug/alcohol problems will be tested in accordance with this same policy as other students. These students are encouraged to continue their support group therapy during their academic semesters in clinical. Through this policy, the School of Nursing seeks to balance a sense of compassion for the individual student with concern for the community as a whole.

### **DRUG SCREENING CLEARANCE PRIOR TO CLINICAL COURSES**

Drug screening clearance will be required of all nursing students prior to beginning their first clinical course and annually thereafter. Clearance will be completed prior to the beginning of the semester in which the first clinical laboratory takes place. Certain clinical facilities may require additional drug screen panels in which circumstance the individual students affected will be notified to retest at their own expense. Drug testing will take place off site at an independently contracted facility. Students will be given notice to report to the facility for testing. Positive results of the screening will be reviewed by a designated Medical Review Officer (MRO) from the independent contracted facility, a licensed physician who has knowledge of substance abuse disorders and has appropriate training to interpret and evaluate confirmed positive tests, medical

history and any other relevant biomedical information. The MRO will report test results to designated agents within the WPU Counseling, Health and Wellness Center.

### **Categories of Test Results**

- A. Refusal to Test: If a student fails to produce the requested sample by the date and time designated, the student will be treated as if the test result was positive.
- B. Negative Test Result: If the Drug test is negative, the student will be allowed to participate in clinical activities.
- C. Positive Test Result: Any student who tests positive for drugs shall be withdrawn from all clinical courses and may be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal from the program. Any student who does not comply with any request or step outlined in this policy shall also be withdrawn from all clinical courses and may be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal from the program. Any student who tests positive for drugs shall be referred to Judicial Affairs at William Paterson University.

The decision to proceed in the program or be dismissed from the nursing program shall be jointly determined by a representative from Judicial Affairs, the Director of the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center and the Chair of the School of Nursing. If the student is not dismissed from the program, the student will not be permitted to participate in clinical until the student undergoes remediation (see below for remediation procedures). In addition, future participation in clinical is dependent on the length of time needed for the remediation process and clinical availability.

### **DRUG TESTING FOR A CAUSE**

The University prohibits the use or possession of alcohol and the use or unlawful possession of drugs during any clinical nursing experience. Drug testing of students after the initial drug screening clearance will be done upon “reasonable suspicion,” for specific behaviors observed when students are engaged in clinical nursing experiences. The testing will be conducted in accordance with the procedure set forth in this policy.

Students enrolled in clinical courses must consent for testing. Students using medications which may impact their ability to perform clinical duties must notify their faculty member prior to the clinical experience without disclosing the identity of their medication. The student is required to obtain documentation from his/her prescribing primary care provider that the medication will not interfere with the student’s ability to perform the clinical requirements safely. This documentation will become part of the student’s confidential Health and Wellness Center record.

If a “reasonable suspicion” exists that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the student shall be subject to immediate testing. Violations of this policy may result, subject to all of the due process rights to which a student is entitled, in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the University’s Nursing Program.

## **PROCEDURE- DRUG TESTING BASED ON “REASONABLE SUSPICION”**

### Suspicion of Substance Abuse

1. If clinical faculty or staff at a clinical facility determines that “reasonable suspicion” exists that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the student must be immediately removed from any clinical activity. This will be reported directly to the Chair of the School of Nursing, or his/her designee, who will then consult with the Dean of College and Health and the director of Judicial Affairs. A “reasonable suspicion” exists when a student exhibits behavior, or a pattern of behavior, or whose physical condition is consistent with the signs and symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

These behaviors may be, but are not limited to (1) unsteady gait (2) odor of alcohol or illegal drugs on the breath or body (3) rapid, thick or slurring speech (4) aggressive or abusive language or behavior (5) disorientation or lethargy (6) nausea, vomiting, sweating (7) dilated or pinpoint pupils.

Other factors to consider include (1) time and attendance patterns (2) on-site accidents (3) difficulty remembering instructions or conversations (4) poor relationships with fellow students

(5) appearance (6) blood shot eyes (7) fine motor tremors (8) confusion (9) deteriorating job performance.

2. The student will be asked to submit to an alcohol or drug screening test which will be immediate, or not later than two hours of the observed behavior, and will be accompanied to the test by a representative of William Paterson University student services.
3. The student will be removed from clinical laboratory activities pending results of the test(s). Test results will be sent to the Dean of the College of Science and Health or designee and the Director of Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, regardless of test results.
4. If a student is unwilling to produce the requested sample, the student will be allowed 30 minutes to reconsider the decision. Students who refuse to take the test after the 30 minutes waiting period will be treated as if the test result was positive.

### If screening/confirmation tests are positive, students are advised of the following:

1. New Jersey laws may require additional penalties beyond University sanctions for drug- related offenses.
2. A positive test result for drugs or alcohol, interpreted by the Medical Review Officer available through the testing laboratory contract will require student withdrawal and/or dismissal from the Nursing program at the discretion of the Dean and Chairperson of the School of Nursing. Such sanctions shall be specified by a Review Panel charged with this function.
3. If the student is a Certified Nursing Assistant, an LPN or an RN, notification of a positive screening result will be sent to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing or other jurisdiction where the student is registered, certified, or licensed.
4. Dismissal from the program will be a joint decision made by a representative from Judicial Affairs, the Director of Counseling, Health and Wellness Center and the Chairperson of the

School of Nursing. If the student is not dismissed from the program, the student will not be permitted to participate in clinical until the student undergoes remediation (see below for remediation procedures).

If the screening test is negative, the following applies:

Absent of any further indications of impairment, the student may resume all clinical nurse course activities.

1. If the student again displays suspicious behaviors, an evaluation/assessment will be necessary to determine the risk potential for client/patient safety and student capacity for required role performance.

The student will be referred for both a medical and psychological evaluation at the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center.

2. Until clearance for participation in clinical courses from the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center reports are received by the Chairperson of the School of Nursing, the student cannot participate in any clinical course activities. The student is required to follow the recommendations included in such reports as a condition of resuming the clinical nursing course.

#### **REMEDIATION FOR POSITIVE DRUG TESTING (Screening or Testing For A Cause)**

If the student is not immediately dismissed from the School of Nursing following the joint review of the Judicial Affairs representative, the Director of the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center and the Chairperson of the School of Nursing, the student will be required to undergo a professional evaluation by the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center. The Counseling, Health and Wellness Center will determine whether appropriate care can be provided on-site, or referred to a higher level of care at an alternate site (such as an inpatient treatment facility).

If referral to an external facility is deemed necessary by the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, all costs are incurred by the student. Students must provide evidence of successful completion at the external facility to the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center. Upon successful completion of the treatment plan, the counselor shall conduct a follow-up evaluation and issue a report to the Dean and the Chairperson of the School of Nursing. If the counselor reports that the student successfully completed the treatment plan and is ready to resume clinical, the student will be re-drug tested at the student's expense.

If the drug test is positive, the student will be dismissed from the School of Nursing. If the drug test result is negative, the student may resume clinical course work depending on space availability. Once a student has resumed clinical activities, the student may be subject to random drug testing until graduation from the program.

Revised and Approved April 2015 by Faculty Confidentiality

The University will take reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of individual test results and the student's medical history. Drug and alcohol test results will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but the University will comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding the release of such information.

Adapted from parts of the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the WPUNJ Workplace Policy, Yavapai College, Clifton, NJ High School, Morris Catholic High School, Nutley Board of Education, Purdue University School of Nursing, Clemson School of Nursing.

5/5/09 Reviewed by Counsel, DAG C. Clarke

## **FUNCTIONAL HEALTH STATUS**

Students with a change in health status affecting functional capacity must complete the School of Nursing's Health Status Change form before attending clinical. Students with a change in health status that may impact their ability to attend and fully participate in clinical are highly discouraged from registering for clinical courses. However, if they choose to do so, they must submit the School of Nursing's Health Clearance form completed and signed by their provider prior to attending clinical. Students must again submit this form upon returning from any clinical absences or if there has been a change in health during the semester. Students are advised that any clinical absences may result in the inability to successfully meet the course objectives, thus resulting in failure of the clinical course. In addition to this, all students must abide by the regulations set forth by the clinical agencies. The School of Nursing has developed this policy for the safety and well-being of the students and the patients.

### **William Paterson University School of Nursing Health Status Change Form**

By signing below, the Licensed Health Care Provider has determined that the following student,

---

is eligible for clinical practice and agrees with the following statement:

I find the above-named student to be in good physical and mental health; the student is free from any health impairment which is of potential risk to self, patients, personnel, students, or faculty and which might interfere with the performance of student's nursing student responsibilities.

#### **Licensed Health Care Provider's Signature**

Date:

---

(Official Stamp Required)

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

WILLIAM PATERSON  
UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE PROGRAM

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

#### COURSE END EVALUATION OF THE PRECEPTOR

\_\_\_\_\_ On-Ground Program

\_\_\_\_\_ On-Line Program

Practicum Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Select rating in the appropriate box for each question. Rate your experience with your **preceptor** on each item using the following rating scale:

**RATING SCALE:** 0 = Not Applicable  
5 = Strongly Agree  
4 = Moderately Agree  
3 = Agree  
2 = Moderately Disagree  
1 = Strongly Disagree

	0	5	4	3	2	1
1. Preceptor demonstrates the ability to function as an effective role model.						
2. Preceptor demonstrates knowledge of the role of the advanced practice nurse, nurse educator or nurse administrator.						
3. Preceptor provides availability for consultation, collaboration, and guidance.						
4. Preceptor demonstrates knowledge of the student's own learning plan/objectives and course objectives.						
5. Preceptor and agency staff offer support in meeting clinical objectives.						
6. I would recommend this preceptor for future practicum student placements.						

Optional comments

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

WILLIAM PATERSON  
UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE PROGRAM

### COURSE END EVALUATION OF CLINICAL SITE

Practicum Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor's Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Course #: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ On-Ground Program On-Line Program

**Please complete by checking (√) all that apply in each category.**

**Type of site:** rural clinic private practice public health other \_\_\_\_\_

**Experiences Available:** acute chronic in-hospital clinic

This evaluation is based on the course presented to students. **The practicum experience, itself is to be evaluated, not the faculty teaching the course.**

**Directions:** Rate your **practicum experience** on each item using the following rating scale:

**RATING SCALE:** 0 = Not Applicable 3 = Agree  
5 = Strongly Agree 2 = Moderately Disagree  
4 = Moderately Agree 1 = Strongly Disagree

	<b>Rate Experience</b>
1. Institution/Agency offers learning experiences needed to fulfill the objectives of the course.	
2. Agency/Practice offers a representation of age, gender and ethnicity.	
3. Clinical/patient management protocol/guidelines are consistent with the current evidence-based recommendations.	
4. Agency provided an orientation to the policies and procedures.	
5. I would recommend this agency for future practicum student's placements.	

**Comments:**



**VISITING STUDENT AUTHORIZATION**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. ELIGIBILITY**

**NOTE:** Students matriculated at William Paterson University must take the last 30 credits of their academic career at William Paterson University

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME SID#

ADDRESS

Is a student in good standing at William Paterson University in \_\_\_\_\_ major with a grade point average of \_\_\_\_\_ and has completed \_\_\_\_\_ credits at William Paterson University. This student has permission to take the following course(s) at:

NAME OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY & ADDRESS OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

**B. COURSE EQUIVALENCE**

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>NO. OF CREDITS</u>	<u>WPU EQUIVALENT COURSE NO.</u>	<u>INITIAL OF WPU COURSE DEPT. CHAIRPERSON</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**TOTAL CREDITS:** \_\_\_\_\_

during the \_\_\_\_\_ session  
SEMESTER YEAR

**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**UNDERGRADUATE** students **must** receive a grade of "C" or better.  
**GRADUATE** students **must** receive a grade of "B" or better.

An official transcript from the above named College/University **must** be sent to William Paterson University, Office of the Registrar, P.O. Box 913, Wayne, NJ 07474-0913.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ADVISOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON (of student's major department)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEAN (of student's major college)**

## **NURSING STUDENTS STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

The student is expected to follow the American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (2001) and the National Student Nurses' Association Code of Ethics (2001) for nursing students, Standards of Practice, and the New Jersey Nurse Practice Act.

The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust with which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

**As a student is involved in the clinical and academic environments, ethical principles are a necessary guide to professional development. Therefore within these environments, the student will:**

- Advocate for the rights of all clients
- Maintain client confidentiality.
- Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self, and others.
- Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.
- Communicate client care in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.
- Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
- Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
- Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
- Collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
- Use every opportunity to keep faculty informed of their learning needs.
- Seek mentoring opportunities with clinical staff, faculty, and peers.

- Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately prepared.
- Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self, or others.
- Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorizations are obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
- Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
- Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
- Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for self or other students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues through faculty consultation.
- Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

*Adapted and modified with permission from the National Student Nurses' Association The Code of Ethics (2001). The Code of Ethics in its original form can be found on [http://www.nсна.org/pubs/resources/academic\\_clinical\\_conduct.asp](http://www.nсна.org/pubs/resources/academic_clinical_conduct.asp)*

Failure to uphold the Nursing Students Standards of Conduct and/or the William Paterson University of New Jersey Academic Integrity Policy may result in dismissal from class, course, program and/or the university.

William Paterson University of New Jersey  
College of Science and Health  
School of Nursing

NURSING STUDENT HONOR PLEDGE:

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

have received a copy and read the William Paterson University of New Jersey Academic Integrity Policy and the School of Nursing Students Standards of Conduct, and I understand the tenets. I will uphold and not violate the Academic Integrity Policy nor the Standards of Conduct.

Failure to uphold the Nursing Students Standards of Conduct and/or the William Paterson University of New Jersey Academic Integrity Policy may result in dismissal from class, course, program and/or the university.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ ( signature)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Graduate Programs in Nursing Contact Persons**

**Jill Nocella, Ph.D., APRN-BC**  
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### **Handbook Disclaimer**

Although the provisions of the William Paterson University Preceptor Handbook are as accurate and complete as possible, the School of Nursing Graduate Program reserves the right to change any provision herein without actual notice if circumstances so warrant. Every effort will be made to keep students advised of such changes. However, the student has the responsibility to know what changes have been made to the Preceptor Handbook and to meet completely and successfully the requirements of the graduate nursing program by reviewing updates in the handbook each semester.