

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Student Handbook

Last Updated: July 2024



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CORPUS
CHRISTI

**COLLEGE OF
NURSING
& HEALTH
SCIENCES**

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS)
Island Hall-317

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC)

<https://www.tamucc.edu/nursing-and-health-sciences>

Table of Contents

SECTION I.....	4
MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRISTINA MURPHEY, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR NURSING	4
VISION.....	4
MISSION.....	4
SECTION II.....	5
FACULTY & STAFF.....	5
<i>Interim Academic Program Coordinator:</i>	5
<i>Faculty:</i>	5
<i>Staff:</i>	6
SECTION III.....	7
LEARNING OUTCOMES	7
<i>Program Description</i>	7
<i>Accreditation</i>	7
<i>DNP Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes</i>	8
<i>Program Options</i>	8
SECTION IV	9
ACADEMIC PROGRESSION	9
<i>Program Admission</i>	9
<i>Academic Advising for DNP Students</i>	10
<i>Progression</i>	12
<i>Course Delivery & Sequencing</i>	12
<i>Graduation</i>	14
<i>Academic Integrity and Student Conduct</i>	16
<i>Dismissal</i>	16
<i>College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Grade Appeal Process</i>	17
SECTION V	18
DNP PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS	18
<i>Course Delivery</i>	18
<i>Written Assignment Requirements</i>	19
<i>DNP Scholarly Project</i>	19
<i>DNP Scholarly Project Committee</i>	20
<i>DNP Practice Experiences</i>	22
<i>Institutional Review Board</i>	24
<i>Manuscript Author Guidelines</i>	24
<i>Proctored Test Procedure</i>	24
<i>Curricular Changes</i>	24
<i>Student Records</i>	25
SECTION VI	26

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT	26
<i>Professional Honor Societies</i>	26
<i>Professional Organizations</i>	26
<i>DNP LMS Organization Site</i>	27
<i>DNP Day</i>	27
<i>Program/College Awards</i>	27
<i>Conferences to Attend</i>	28
SECTION VII	29
GENERAL INFORMATION	29
<i>Graduate Admissions</i>	29
<i>Continuous Enrollment</i>	29
<i>Leave of Absence</i>	30
<i>Time Limit to Degree</i>	30
<i>Revalidation of Courses Beyond Degree Time Limit</i>	30
<i>Academic Requirements for Graduate Work</i>	31
<i>Additional Information</i>	31

SECTION I

MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRISTINA MURPHEY, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR NURSING

Welcome to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi! This handbook is a document developed for students to reflect on the mission of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences as well as information on the two track options offered (the Nurse Practitioner (NP) track; and the Executive Leadership (ExL) track).

This handbook is designed to serve as a resource to help with your questions about the graduate programs. It is a companion for the catalog of the entry year: <https://catalog.tamucc.edu/> and in case of any contradiction, the graduate catalog of record is the true source of information, as well as the College of Graduate Studies handbook <https://www.tamucc.edu/grad-college/current-students/assets/documents/doctoral-student-handbook.pdf>.

The Doctoral Student Handbook from the College of Graduate Studies handbook provides university-wide information relative to student resources, academic policies, financial assistance, information on coursework requirements, advising, professional organizations and policies and procedures are included.

Students will also use this handbook in conjunction with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) website and current degree planners to facilitate progression in their respective program option within the DNP degree.

VISION

Enriching lives, advancing healthcare, one Islander at a time.

MISSION

The TAMUCC College of Nursing and Health Sciences is committed to promoting a learner-centered and caring environment that facilitates student success and engagement in a global context. Delivering nationally recognized, evidence-based educational programs that serve a diverse student population, the college sets clinical standards of excellence in healthcare, and actively advances scholarly research and leadership. The activities are fostered in a collaborative, inter-professional, and multicultural learning community.

SECTION II

FACULTY & STAFF

Note: Curriculum Vitas (CVs) for graduate faculty are posted on the CONHS website (scroll down to Nursing Practice Department and click on read more below name) Link: [College of Nursing and Health Science | Faculty Directory | Texas A&M University-CC](#)

Interim Academic Program Coordinator:

Heather DeGrande, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, Assistant Professor, Office: Island Hall 333,
Phone (361) 825-3696, heather.degrande@tamucc.edu

Faculty:

Dixie Andelman, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, BC-ADM, Assistant Professor

Joshua Anderson, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, ANC, Assistant Clinical Professor

Faezeh Babaieasl “Dr. Naz”, PhD, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

Heather DeGrande, PhD, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, Assistant Professor

Cynthia DeLanie EdD, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

Luis Espinoza, PhD, MPH, MCHES®, CPH, Assistant Professor

Sarah Guy, PhD, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

Hadi Kooshlar, Ph.D., MSN, MHS, BSN, RN, Associate Professor and Department Chair
Department of Nursing Practice

Melissa Leal, EdD, MSN, RN, CHSE, FSSH, Assistant Professor

Elizabeth Loika, DNP, FNP-C, PNP-C, Clinical Associate Professor

Christina Murphey, PhD, RN, Professor and Associate Dean for Nursing

Rena Schumann, PhD, RN, CNE, The Dr. Eve Layman Endowed Professor in Nursing

Tammy Walker-Smith, DNP, MHA, FNP-C, Assistant Professor

Liwen Zeng, PhD, Assistant Professor

Staff:

Administrative Assistant:

Kirsten Meza, CONHS Department of Nursing Practice Administrative Assistant

Phone (361) 825- 2613, email: Kirsten.meza@tamucc.edu

Advisor:

Sara E. Malacara, CONHS Graduate Advisor, College of Graduate Studies

Phone (361) 825-2568, email: Sara.Malacara@tamucc.edu

CONHS Student Success Office:

Megan L. Kramr, Student Success Coordinator

Phone (361) 825-2569, megan.kramr@tamucc.edu

Ushma Saraf, Student Success Administrative Assistant

Phone (361) 825-2799, ushma.saraf@tamucc.edu

Bryana Cazarez, Data Entry Specialist

Phone (361) 825-3408, byrana.cazarez@tamucc.edu

SECTION III

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program Description

The purpose of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) DNP program is to provide Master of Science prepared nurses with advanced preparation that will lead to the acquisition of knowledge and skills essential for reducing the incidence and impact of preventable disease and injury within their communities, improving administration of delivery systems, policymaking, and design or expansion of healthcare programs. The A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Nursing and Health Sciences' (CONHS) extensive network of healthcare providers, agencies, and veteran's services provides rich practice experiences to enhance the DNP student's knowledge and skills. These skills are essential in the development of experts responsible for translating evidence to practice. The curriculum has been designed to meet the diverse needs of the nursing community in South Texas.

Emphasis is placed on preparing experts to facilitate quality health care delivery within multicultural communities. The geographic region served by TAMUCC provides numerous opportunities to examine the unique health needs of Hispanic and other cultures. Diverse needs of the community in South Texas will be met within the design of the DNP curriculum. The knowledge acquired through program courses and the implementation of the DNP Scholarly Project is transferable to a variety of settings and provides a foundation for nursing practice at the highest level.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing/the master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program and/the post-graduate APRN certificate program at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>)

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS -SOC)

The CONHS nursing programs are approved by:

The Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite #3-460, Austin, TX 78701-3944

Phone: (512) 305-7400

Fax: (512) 305-7401

DNP Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Course activities, practice experiences and student-directed learning are expected to support each student's development of competencies required for practice as clinical and system leaders in diverse healthcare organizations. After completion of the program students are expected to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Integrate nursing science knowledge from the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences and ethics as the basis for practice.
- Provide culturally relevant health promotion and disease prevention initiatives based on epidemiological, bio-statistical, environmental, and other scientific evidence for diverse populations
- Demonstrate visionary organizational leadership by designing and implementing efficient, effective practice and policy models
- Apply advanced levels of clinical scholarship, systems thinking and analytical methods in evidence-based management and practice.
- Translate and disseminate knowledge to transform management and practice.
- Leverage information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care.
- Analyze, develop, and advocate for healthcare policies to improve healthcare systems across diverse constituencies.
- Collaborate inter-professionally to improve patient and population outcomes through practice, education, and leadership.

These outcomes are consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing.

Program Options

The DNP Program includes two specialty tracks: (1) the Nurse Practitioner (NP) track; and (2) the Executive Leadership (ExL) track.

- The NP track curriculum is designed for students who have earned their Master of Science Degree in Nursing and hold a current unencumbered license with authority to practice as a Nurse Practitioner in the state of Texas, and national certification as a nurse practitioner. Students are assumed to have the knowledge and experience used in advanced nursing practice as the underlying foundation for further learning.
- The ExL track curriculum is designed for students who have earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree and who hold a current unencumbered license with authority to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas. Equivalent degrees include Master of Business Administration, Master of Healthcare Administration, or Master of Public Administration.

SECTION IV

ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

Program Admission

Admission information and deadlines can be found on the website:

<https://www.tamucc.edu/nursing-and-health-sciences/nursing-practice/index.php> under programs of study.

The DNP Program uses a rolling admission process (applications are reviewed upon receipt or when there are an adequate number of applicants for review). We encourage students to apply early. This will allow for enough time to also apply for and qualify for federal student aid and scholarships. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials have been submitted and received. Cohorts start in Spring semesters each year.

The college reserves the right to defer admission in the case of low enrollment. Students will be notified and given options if a selected track is not offered.

To apply for admission, students should complete application requirements as outlined in the posted Application Requirements section of the DNP webpage:

<https://www.tamucc.edu/programs/graduate-programs/nursing-practice-dnp.php>

The following program requirements apply to all nursing graduate students upon admission and throughout the program of study. Students must:

1. Provide evidence they hold a current unencumbered license to practice nursing in the state of Texas throughout the program. Applicants license and disciplinary status will be verified through a primary source verification:
<https://txbn.boardsofnursing.org/licenselookup> and <https://www.nursys.com/>.
Evidence of current unencumbered license will be verified throughout the enrollment period of the student.
2. Provide evidence they have met the requirements for immunizations by uploading relevant documents to their account in the data repository maintained by the College. The data repository includes automated email messages to notify students when their immunizations have expired. Students must update immunizations while enrolled in the program as needed. Students should contact the CONHS Data Entry Specialist for additional information about these requirements.
3. Hold current American Heart Association CPR-Type C certification or Red Cross Healthcare Provider CPR. A copy of the student's current American Heart Association Health Care Providers card is required to be uploaded to the data repository.
4. Complete a 10 panel non-chain of custody urine drug screen upon admission to the DNP program. The results of the screen must be submitted to the CONHS through the data repository maintained by the CONHS. Some agencies may require additional drug screens.
5. Complete a criminal background check after admission to the program. Generally, the background check is completed within the first semester of the program to meet the admission requirement. Occasionally an agency will require students to complete

another background check if the time between admission and a practice experience within the agency exceeds their time for background checks. The additional background check will be a condition of the student's access to the agency and cannot be waived by the College.

6. Purchase professional liability coverage through the University. Fees for this coverage are included in the fees paid at the time of registration at the beginning of each academic year.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has specific immunization requirements for students enrolled in health profession programs, the CONHS follows the: Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64 and Rule 97.65 Texas Education Code in allowing for exceptions to the immunization requirements. Some agencies where students may choose to complete clinical practice experience may have stricter requirements than the state minimum standards. Students will have to meet agency requirements to gain access to these agencies.

Academic Advising for DNP Students

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the nursing programs at TAMUCC is provided by the Graduate Nursing Student Academic Advisor, DNP Committee Chair, DNP Program Coordinator, and the Associate Dean for Nursing.

Each student is responsible for awareness and successful completion of all degree requirements.

The following individuals will facilitate student progress in accomplishing the DNP program student learning outcomes.

CONHS Graduate Advisor

- The advisor will assist students with class registration issues, course sequencing, graduation procedures, academic progression, navigating College of Graduate Studies' (CGS) procedures and utilizing existing university facilities, such as financial aid.
- Each DNP student is responsible for meeting or holding a phone conference with the Graduate Nursing Academic Advisor prior to or during each registration period. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the student of current offerings in the nursing program and to review the student's progress in the degree plan.
- Students should consult the Graduate Nursing Academic Advisor when events affect their ability to complete courses, progress through the program or interfere with registration.
- The CONHS Graduate Advisor performs course inventories before graduation and students should be guided by this review of graduation requirements.

DNP Scholarly Project Committee Chair

- The DNP Coordinator assigns each student a DNP Chair before the third semester of the DNP program. The DNP Chair is a full time, TAMU-CC faculty member who is considered an expert in the student's area of scholarly effort (or will support the student in finding such an expert) and will remain an advisor to the student through graduation unless a change is sought by the student or is necessary due to a change in faculty circumstances.
- Advising responsibilities for the DNP Chair include:
 - Assisting students in planning their course of study, selecting courses congruent with their nursing degree plan and career goals, and monitoring successful completion of the DNP Program and Project.
 - Overseeing and approving accurate and timely logging of clinical hours and portfolio by the student.
 - Overseeing and participating in the evaluation of the DNP Scholarly Project Proposal and Final Defense presentations.

DNP Academic Program Coordinator

- The DNP Academic Program Coordinator is entrusted with the overall leadership of the DNP program. This individual is responsible for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the DNP program, including curriculum, clinical practice experience oversight, and compliance with national accreditation and certification standards.
- The DNP Academic Program Coordinator is responsible for administering the policies related to the DNP program and supporting students as they progress through the program.
- The DNP Academic Program Coordinator will collaborate with the student's DNP Committee Chair and Committee members as needed to ensure student success in the DNP Scholarly Project Proposal and Final presentations.
- It is recommended, students seek assistance from course faculty as soon as they determine they are having difficulties in meeting course requirements, achieving course student learning outcomes, or meeting program student learning outcomes. Students are expected to contact course faculty, the CONHS Graduate Academic Advisor, the DNP Academic Program Coordinator and Associate Dean for Nursing, following chain of command as needed, in the event academic difficulties occur that may impact program progression.

Associate Dean for Nursing

- The Associate Dean for Nursing is administratively responsible for ensuring the highest quality of academic programs and student services and will support students to foster an environment that endorses student achievement including reporting and accreditation.

Progression

Admission to the CONHS DNP program is highly competitive. Students are expected to progress through the program per their degree plan. If students do not follow the prescribed degree plan, they will be re-sequenced. The process of re-sequencing will delay graduation timelines depending on enrollment in needed courses.

Course Delivery & Sequencing

- Courses are delivered in a sequence that promotes the student's development of skills in the design of health services not acquired through master-level nursing programs.
- Courses are arranged to support working registered nurses through a part-time program that can be completed in their home communities.
- Students will be required to travel to agencies they select for practice experiences.
- Students may choose to meet faculty or other resources on the TAMU-CC campus to facilitate their learning.
- Students will be expected to attend periodic events on campus. Students will be notified of dates of events requiring on campus presence at least one semester in advance. Students are expected to discuss barriers to participation in any of these events with the DNP Program Coordinator.
- Students should consult the course faculty and the Graduate Academic Advisor immediately when they encounter problems that may interfere with the successful completion of a course in any semester.
- To progress, students must meet prerequisites for individual courses. Course prerequisites are based on sequencing of course content. Students who do not meet these requirements risk not successfully completing a course or slowing the degree progression.
- Courses will be taught once a calendar year so students should consult the DNP Program Coordinator and the Graduate Academic Advisor if they are unable to follow the current degree plan. An alternate degree plan may be approved.
- Students can find course sequence in the Degree Planner for individual plans.

All students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by TAMU-CC CGS. See catalog section on [Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements](#) . Students must also adhere to the CGS [Student Handbook](#).

Students who drop a course or do not enroll in a semester in which they are eligible to enroll will only have access to subsequent courses in their area of study when space is available. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students consult the graduate nursing academic advisor or the graduate nursing respective program coordinator before withdrawing.

To ensure academic integrity and reduce conflicts of interest in the DNP program, it is highly recommended for TAMU-CC CONHS faculty to pursue doctoral education in another college of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi or another Texas A&M University.

Grading Scale

The CONHS letter grading scales for all programs consist of the following:

A - 90 to 100

B - 83 to 89

C - 75 to 82

D - 74 to 67

F - 66 and Below

Each semester, student progression is evaluated by the DNP Chair and DNP Program Coordinator based on the successful program milestones achievement. Holds may be placed by the DNP Coordinator to ensure compliance with program milestones. Milestones, as documented in the DNP Student and Chair Guide include:

- Project Proposal Report and Presentation Evaluation
- Comprehensive Exam
- Conducting DNP Scholarly Project
- DNP Final Scholarly Project Report and Defense Evaluation
- DNP Student Portfolio
- Clinical Practice Hours completion and timely logging

All students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by TAMUCC CGS.

If a student earns a grade of C, D, F, or W, the student:

- Must repeat a course in which a grade of C or lower or W (Withdrawal) was earned.
- May be placed on scholastic probation if the GPA falls below 3.0 because of the C, D, F, or W.
- Will be removed from scholastic probation in accordance with university policy. See Scholastic Probation and Enforced Withdrawal in the graduate catalog.
- May not progress to courses for which that course is a prerequisite when a grade of C, D, F, W, or I (Incomplete) was earned.
- If the student earns a second C or below in the program, the student cannot progress further and is required to withdraw from the program even when the GPA does not fall below 3.0.

The student cannot progress to the next course after withdrawing from two courses in the program unless approved by the college committee with oversight for academic progression. A plan to complete the program must be submitted to the committee before a progression decision can be made. Admission to courses that need to be completed will depend on space availability.

Students are referred to the University Graduate Catalog and to course prerequisites to determine if they may progress in the degree, particularly after experiencing academic difficulty. Advice and counseling are discussed in the Academic Advising section.

Students who have failed or withdrawn from a course need to speak with the DNP Academic Program Coordinator and CONHS Graduate Advisor to determine their eligibility to progress further in the program.

Graduation

The DNP program curriculum is 40 semester credit hours. Course activities are both didactic and experiential. The didactic component of courses is delivered through the web-based, learning management system (LMS) at TAMUCC.

Exit Requirements

- A DNP student may receive a degree upon satisfying the requirements of the catalog under which the student enrolled in the program, provided the catalog is no more than seven years old when the degree is conferred, and the University still offers programs and required curriculum described in that catalog. A student may petition to graduate under a subsequent catalog under which credit was earned because of a preference to meet newer degree requirements.
- DNP students have a maximum of seven years to complete the program, from the first semester start date.
- Students intending to have a degree conferred must notify their academic advisor.
- Students who plan to participate in a graduation exercise and/or receive a diploma must complete an application for graduation by the deadline indicated in the Academic Calendar.
- An application for graduation must be obtained through the student portal, [S.A.I.L.](#)
- Students must also complete a Doctoral Student Checklist, completing all requirements by the provided deadline, specific to DNP students, prior to graduation. [Doctoral Student Checklist DNP](#)
- Students participating in the graduation exercise will also be required to obtain an appropriate cap and gown.
- The application for graduation is not transferable to a subsequent semester. If a student does not graduate, the application will be canceled. A new application must be obtained and processed through [S.A.I.L.](#)

Graduation requirements include the satisfactory completion of:

- All courses (with a final grade of B or better). Courses not passed with at least a B may result in an alternate degree plan and delay program completion.
- The design, implementation, and defense of a DNP Scholarly Project. Students may need to retake NURS 6195 to complete the DNP Scholarly Project report requirements.
- The preparation of a professional portfolio documenting a total of 1000 hours in post-baccalaureate practice experiences. (The practice experience hours may include up to 500 clinical hours completed in a student's accredited MSN program). Students may need to retake NURS 6195 to complete practice hour requirements.
- If any of the above criteria are not met, students should meet with their DNP Chair to discuss options.

Information about Commencement can be found here:

<https://www.tamucc.edu/commencement/index.php>

DNP Scholarly Project

Students must complete a DNP Scholarly Project to meet program requirements. The DNP Scholarly Project is used to demonstrate the student's ability to translate scientific evidence for clinical practice. Each student is expected to identify a potential change in practice that targets a practice or health problem not satisfactorily managed through current standards of care or healthcare system organization. The DNP Scholarly Project requires the student to design, implement, and evaluate the effect of the change in practice on patients, patient populations, or health systems. Project outcomes should include improvement in quality and cost-effectiveness of care.

- The DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Rubric can be used to guide the development of project proposal and presentation.
- The DNP Final Scholarly Project Rubric can be used to guide the development of the final proposal presentation.

DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Defense & Comprehensive Examination

- The DNP Comprehensive examination is administered in NURS-6308 as the final examination for the course. DNP students may not begin conducting their DNP project or advance to the next course without successfully completing this examination.
- The DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Defense (hearing) occurs in conjunction with NURS 6308. All committee members, including the GFR, will be provided a completed copy of the project proposal document at least two (2) weeks before the defense. The defense must be scheduled using [Form D: Doctoral Project Proposal Hearing Request Form – DNP](#). Submission of Form D indicates preliminary acceptance of the project and should not be signed if committee members determine that further study or major changes are required.

DNP Scholarly Project Final Defense

- The DNP project defense will cover the project only. More than one dissenting vote in the defense will constitute failure. The DNP project defense must be scheduled for a minimum of four weeks prior to graduation.
- All committee members, including the GFR, will be provided a completed copy of the project document at least two (2) weeks before the defense. The defense must be scheduled using [Form E: Agreement to Schedule the Dissertation/Project Defense & Final Examination](#). Submission of Form E indicates preliminary acceptance of the project and should not be signed if committee members determine that further study or major changes are required.
- Presentation/defense of the DNP project is unique to the DNP program. Students should refer to the DNP Handbook for specific information regarding the defense process.
- Subsequent to the project defense, and only after all changes to the project manuscript requested by the committee have been made, the student will submit an electronic

copy of the DNP Project paper to ProQuest/UMI as a single PDF file. Submission must be made no later than three (3) weeks prior to graduation.

Clinical Practice

Students enrolled in the DNP program are required to complete up to 1,000 hours of post-baccalaureate practice experiences (often classified as clinical practice) during the program (AACN DNP Essentials). A practice experience is an experiential learning activity completed under the guidance of content experts in a relevant setting through which the student acquires and applies knowledge, skills, and attitudes that expand a student's professional framework. Students are required to obtain a Letter of Support from Clinical Practice organizations.

DNP Portfolio

The DNP Portfolio is a compilation of practice experience details, artifacts and other evidence demonstrating the student's development of advanced competencies throughout the DNP program. No two portfolios will be identical because the documents representing each student's experience will vary depending on specific learning activities completed during the program. The complete portfolio must be created in the DNP clinical experiences log platform and with the DNP Scholarly Project will represent evidence of program completion. The portfolio will be completed in the last semester of the program as part of course work.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty is described in Article III of the Student Code of Conduct. This procedure should be read in conjunction with the university catalog and the [Student Code of Conduct](#), which explain standards for academic integrity and academic honesty. Information on [Academic Misconduct is available here](#).

Social Media

Social media has become very popular in the public's life to communicate. The student is referred to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) White Paper on Social Media 2011 for guidance in the use of social media in nursing. The DNP student will be held accountable to professional standards related to confidentiality in all activities related to program requirements.

Dismissal

1. A student may be dismissed from the program without previous warning for unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior identified by college administrators and faculty. The conduct of nursing students should meet ethical standards as defined by the [American Nurses Association \(ANA\)](#) in the Code of Ethics. Personal integrity is reflected in professional judgments. Consequently, the College reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for unprofessional or unsafe behavior.
2. Students are expected to maintain an unencumbered Texas Board of Nursing RN and APRN licensure when applicable, immunizations, and all other compliance

requirements (those required on admission) throughout the duration of the program and for entrance into and completion of clinical experiences. The CONHS reserves the right to dismiss students from the program when compliance requirements are not met. Refer to rule 2.15 and something from Texas BON.

3. Students dismissed from the program for unprofessional above and/or unsafe behavior (including #1 & or 2 above) are ineligible for the Grade Appeal process.

Please see the link for more information: [Texas Board of Nursing - Laws & Rules - Nursing Practice Act](#)

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Grade Appeal Process

The CONHS adheres to the [University's Student Grade Appeal](#) Procedure.

SECTION V

DNP PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Full Degree information can be located in the catalog:

<https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/nursing-health-sciences/doctoral/nursing-dnp/>

Course Delivery

- Each DNP course can be accessed in a unique LMS shell through the TAMU-CC link. Course materials are organized within the shell using the CONHS template (syllabus, course schedule, course-specific lessons). Links to support services including the library, tutorials, zoom presentations, and IT Help Desk are available in each shell. All course-related communication including documentation of grades, clarification of assignments, and discussions should occur in the course shell.
- Generally, in-person, face-to-face activities between faculty and classmates will not be required to complete course-specific assignments.
- Course work consists of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities that support student learning. Faculty may use a variety of web-based technologies such as YouTube videos or group conferencing as well as the learning tools embedded in the learning management system (such as chats, discussions, assignment management) to support student learning.
- Students are expected to maintain access to the Internet so that they can regularly participate in class activities.
- The TAMUCC IT Help Desk maintains student support services seven days a week and can be reached by email or phone. Students should contact the IT Help services when they cannot access the course shell. Additionally, students should contact the course faculty as soon as possible when they have long-term access problems that will interfere with their access to course materials through the LMS. Each course should present a class schedule, which will delineate deadlines for assignments and provide a framework for establishing a work plan to complete course requirements. Most courses include lessons presented through a text format. These lessons generally include references to material on sites outside of the course made available through links. The lessons supplement the required readings. Self-assessments are often used as activities for students to evaluate their understanding of the information covered in lessons.
- Several courses will include activities completed in practice settings through practice experiences. These activities provide appropriate opportunities for students to demonstrate their ability to implement the principles covered in a course and complete the practice hours required for the program. Students are expected to complete course assignments in a timely manner.

Written Assignment Requirements

- Because this is a doctoral program, student performance will be assessed primarily through application activities that include the design, implementation, and defense of interventions that support quality health care. All assignments submitted to faculty must be submitted in the current APA format unless specifically instructed for that assignment. Any deviation from this requirement will be explicitly stated in a course syllabus.
- Students are strongly advised to purchase a copy of the current Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and avoid relying solely on electronic templates. Using only electronic aids for APA formatting may create problems because electronic templates do not always work correctly when documents are transmitted electronically.
- SQUIRE 2.0 (Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence) will be used to document and format the DNP Scholarly Project. Students should become familiar with this framework as early in the program as possible.

DNP Scholarly Project

The DNP Scholarly Project provides students opportunities to examine structures and processes encountered in clinical practice that interfere with the effectiveness of health services.

Activities completed in courses should provide student insight into practice problems and stimulate the design of interventions that improve services through the application of research-based evidence to practice settings.

Examples of potential DNP Scholarly Projects translating research into practice application include but are not limited to:

- Quality improvement (care processes, patient outcomes).
- Implement and evaluate evidence-based practice guidelines.
- Analyze policy: develop, implement, evaluate, or revise policy.
- Design and use databases to retrieve information for decision making, planning, and/or evaluation.
- Conduct financial analyses to compare care models and potential cost savings, etc.
- Implement and evaluate innovative uses of technology to enhance/evaluate care.
- Design and evaluate new models of care.
- Design and evaluate programs.
- Provide leadership of inter-professional and or intra-professional collaborative projects to implement policy, evaluate care models, transitions, etc.
- Collaborate with researchers to answer clinical questions.
- Collaborate on legislative change using evidence.
- Work with lay and or professional coalitions to develop, implement or evaluate health programs (such as health promotion and disease prevention programs for vulnerable patients, groups, or communities).
- Write the project as a guideline and use the GLIA Framework (Guideline Implementability Appraisal) have the guideline reviewed by experts; adds more rigor when students are not able to implement

The student, with faculty and DNP Committee Member support, is responsible for the selection of the DNP Scholarly Project focus. Students are expected to focus their DNP Scholarly Project on the health care issue or clinical problem identified in the application essay and admission interview or early in the program.

These two processes are utilized to match the student, projected DNP Scholarly Project, and CONHS faculty for the DNP program and scholarly project. Students will maintain communication with the CONHS faculty, DNP Chair and DNP Project Advisor as they complete the project. If required, the DNP Chair and Committee Members will assist students in the rapid identification of an alternate topic.

It is critical students establish the project focus early as successful completion will likely require four of five program semesters. Throughout the DNP program, students will demonstrate expert nursing leadership behaviors and professional collaboration in completing the DNP Scholarly Project. The culminating products include but are not limited to a DNP Scholarly Project Report, Defense Presentation, DNP Scholarly Project Poster, and an activity through which the student disseminates the results of the DNP Scholarly Project. See the DNP LMS Organization Site.

Students, in consultation with their DNP Chair and Committee Members, are responsible for writing the DNP Scholarly Project Proposal, preparing, and submitting IRB proposals as indicated, completing the DNP Scholarly Project Report, and preparing a Project Executive Summary for the DNP Portfolio in addition all students are required to successfully defend their DNP Scholarly Project to the DNP Chair and Committee Members. All committee members must attend and evaluate the defense and proposal presentations using the assigned rubrics. Each DNP student will be responsible for initiating the electronic submission of the proposal and Final Scholarly Project evaluations which will route to the DNP Chair and Committee Members attending the presentations as well as the required CGS documents which can be found at COGS Doctoral Students.

[SQUIRE 2.0](#) (Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence) will be used to document and format the DNP Scholarly Project. Students should become familiar with this framework as early in the program as possible.

DNP Scholarly Project Committee

The DNP Scholarly Project is directed by a DNP Team who works with the student to conduct relevant DNP Scholarly Projects which enhance the delivery of quality health services and improve health outcomes for diverse patient populations. The team consists of a minimum of three members, the DNP Chair, DNP Scholarly Project Co-Chair, Advisor, or Content Expert, and the Graduate Faculty Representative (GFR). All members of the committee must have a [Graduate Faculty](#) status in the CGS per University Policy [12.99.99.C0.03 Designation of Graduate Faculty](#).

DNP Scholarly Project Committee Chair

In collaboration with the Associate Dean of Nursing and the Nursing Practice Department Chair, the DNP Coordinator assigns each student a DNP Chair before the third semester after

admission to the DNP program. The DNP Chair is a full time, TAMU-CC tenure-track faculty member who generally is considered an expert in the student's area of scholarly effort (or will support the student in finding such an expert) and will remain an advisor to the student through graduation unless a change is sought by the student or is necessary due to a change in faculty circumstances.

- The DNP Chair not only assists the student as an academic advisor in completion of their program but also has the following responsibilities in assisting the student to complete the DNP Scholarly Project.
- Leading the DNP Team to guide the focus and methods of the DNP Scholarly Project from planning through defense and evaluation.
- Assisting students to create Personal Practice Objectives (PPOs) to ensure clinical activities fulfill DNP Essentials.
- Overseeing and approving accurate and timely logging clinical hours and portfolio by the student.
- Communicating with the student's scholarly project facilitator to ensure student and project are progressing as expected and to troubleshoot problems.
- Overseeing and evaluating the DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Presentation and Report and the Final Defense Presentation and Report.

DNP Scholarly Project Co-Chair, Advisor, or Content Expert Committee Member

DNP Co-Chair, Advisor, or Content Expert committee members are assigned by the DNP Coordinator in collaboration with the Associate Dean of Nursing and the Nursing Practice Department Chair before or during the third semester of the program depending on student need (see below).

In some cases, the DNP student may require an external Advisor or Content Expert usually at the project site. These cases will be considered with the DNP Coordinator on a case by case basis.

The DNP Project Co-Chair or Advisor will work with the student's Chair, as needed, to guide the focus and methods of the project and assist in evaluation of the proposal and finished project report and defense. The Co-Chair or Advisor should be an expert in the DNP Scholarly Project area of focus and should assist the student and Chair as needed.

The DNP Content Expert if needed, is an expert in the field of inquiry and will support the completion of the DNP Scholarly Project. This person is intended to provide specialized expertise to support students with content specific support, insights and/or networking opportunities.

Once the student has been assigned committee members, students should submit [FORM C: Doctoral Dissertation/Project Advisory Committee](#). FORM C must be completed at least 8 weeks before the project proposal (Fall semester before NURS 6308 - DNP Project Proposal).

Graduate Faculty Representative

The Dean of the CGS will assign a full-time, tenure track TAMU-CC faculty member from outside the CONHS to serve as the Graduate Faculty Representative (GFR) on the student's project team.

- The GFR will share in the DNP Committee's responsibility to assist in guiding the students as they complete their DNP Scholarly Project and pursue the degree.
- The GFR will be assigned to the DNP Scholarly Project Team during the fourth semester.
- The primary role of the GFR however, is as a representative of the Graduate Faculty, to serve the interests of both the student and the University, according to the policies of the Graduate Faculty/University to ensure that the standards established for a doctoral degree at TAMUCC are maintained. The GFR will attend both the DNP Scholarly Project Proposal and Final Defense presentations.
- Upon completion of the student's DNP proposal presentation and evaluation of the proposal report and the Final DNP Scholarly Project defense and final report evaluation the GFR as a member of the student's DNP Committee, will be asked to sign the evaluation documenting attendance and complete the evaluation if desired, by signing the CONHS DNP evaluation rubrics.
- Upon completion of the student's DNP Scholarly Project Defense, the GFR will submit the Graduate Faculty Representative Report (found on the [CGS Doctoral Forms Page](#)) to the Dean of CGS, commenting on the process. In doing so, the GFR affirms that the University process has appropriate/sensible rigor and integrity.

DNP Practice Experiences

DNP students are required to obtain the Practice Hours Verification Form from their respective MSN program. This is a formal record of the clinical hours obtained in the student's master's program. Up to 500 hours may be applied to the DNP Practice experience requirement of 1000 hours.

Students who enter the program with less than 500 practice hours from their MSN should meet with their DNP Chair and the DNP Program Coordinator to determine a plan for successfully completing the required 1,000 practice hours. Refer to the Clinical Practice Hours Tool for examples of additional practice hours which can be found in the DNP LMS Organization Site.

- Practice experiences should be completed under the guidance of the student's DNP Chair and Academic Program Coordinator with the organization facilitator. Facilitators are professionals who provide access to sites and resources but do not provide supervision for student practice. Students should identify facilitators in their community who will help them access resources, key stakeholders, and opportunities in which the student can complete the work relevant to their DNP Scholarly Project and program objectives. The facilitator will assist students in obtaining the Letter of Support from appropriate organization leadership.
- Each semester, prior to initiating the practice experience, students are expected to review the program student learning outcomes they plan to achieve from the practice experience. The student should consult their DNP Chair when delineating these outcomes.
- The DNP Chair will consult with course-specific faculty when the experiences are directly related to a course.

- The DNP Scholarly Project Committee Chair (in consultation with the DNP Scholarly Project Committee, as needed) must approve all practice experiences and ensure timely documentation in the clinical experience platform
- Practice experiences may be completed in the student's practice/work organization if the experience provides an opportunity to achieve learning objectives and avoids conflict of interest with the employer. Students completing hours in their workplace should work closely with their DNP Chair and employer so practice hours can be delineated.
- Students will record and describe all time spent in clinical practice experiences and document elements relevant to program completion in the clinical experience platform used at TAMU-CC. The student is responsible for a one-time fee to create an account that will be used throughout the DNP program. The information students enter in this account will be used to create their Student Portfolio.
- Students are responsible for timely documentation of activities in the clinical experience platform using the template provided and housed in the DNP LMS Organization Site. These practice experiences can be direct or indirect patient care events, observational experiences, interviews, relevant community events, minutes/agendas from professional meetings, or any other activity that contributes to the students understanding of DNP practice. The record should contain the specific program student learning outcomes, DNP essentials and/or AONL and NONPH competencies which students delineated for the experience and explanations as to how they demonstrated their achievement of those outcomes through experiential activities.
- Students should use the Clinic Practice Hours Tool, which can be found in the DNP Student and Chair Guide posted on the DNP LMS Organization Site, as a benchmark to evaluate their progress with practice experience hours to conclude with 1000 practice hours. Hours built into the program are listed per semester and course and in running total through progression of the program. Students requiring additional Leadership Hours should log those in the clinical experience platform as Leadership Hours. MSN hours and Leadership Hours should not exceed 500 hours.
- Practice experiences can be:
 - Synthesis experiences completed within courses that contribute (a) to meeting the DNP Essentials and (b) to the design of the DNP Scholarly Project and contribute to a student's further development as an expert.
 - Immersion experiences in which students engage in activities specific to patient populations relevant to their project.
- Students engaged in practice experiences are expected to:
 - Maintain necessary RN licensure, ACLS, BCLS or PALS certification throughout the program and for completion of clinical experiences and all immunization and testing requirements.
 - Follow program requirements for establishing partnerships with clinical agencies that support learning experiences.
 - Maintain a professional appearance when engaged in practice experiences. Professional appearance includes avoiding extremes in style of clothing and no

exposed tattoos or body piercings. Wear a nametag that indicates the student is acting in the role of a TAMU-CC DNP student.

- Nametags may be obtained at DNP Student Orientation, at any local office supply store or online, and should include the student's name, credentials, and identify them as a TAMU-CC CONHS DNP Student
- Communicate regularly with individuals directly involved in practice experiences. These individuals include course faculty, DNP Chair, or facilitator and any other relevant member of the team.
- Record required information in the DNP practice experience log.

Institutional Review Board

Students are expected to protect human participants and disseminate the results of their DNP Scholarly Project through manuscript submission and professional presentations. Therefore, students, in consultation with their DNP Chair, should plan early submission of their project protocol to the TAMU-CC Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB protocol must be approved before a project involving human subjects can be implemented. The agency in which the DNP Scholarly Project is being completed may also require that its' IRB review the protocol prior to implementation. TAMU-CC IRB will serve as the primary IRB and additional sites can accept to rely on the TAMU-CC IRB protocol if they choose.

Manuscript Author Guidelines

In the final semester, students will be required to disseminate their work through manuscript publication submission. Additionally, poster presentation at DNP Day are graduation requirements. Students should follow the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) authorship guidelines. Listing of student's DNP Committee members is required for final DNP report, proposal and DNP Scholarly Project. Presentation at other venues is encouraged.

Proctored Test Procedure

The TAMUCC CONHS strives to create an environment that supports the University standards for academic integrity. The College may administer tests either at secure testing sites or using specific exam software dependent on the program's choice. If a testing site is used, students can select a test site near their home from a list of approved sites: any testing fees (for either the testing site or the testing software) will be paid by the student directly to the test site or the software administrator.

To facilitate the use of test sites, course faculty work together to establish a test schedule for the academic semester. Students are expected to adjust their work schedules so that they can take the test when it is scheduled. Each course syllabus will outline the testing procedure in detail and delineate the class policy for rescheduling tests. Each faculty member has discretion to establish the course policy for rescheduling test dates.

Curricular Changes

The DNP curriculum was designed to support student acquisition of principles and competencies essential to professional practice at its highest level. The CONHS reserves the

right to modify the curriculum when professional standards for doctoral education in nursing indicate a change is needed. The Associate Dean for Nursing, working with the DNP Program Coordinator and Graduate Academic Advisor, will notify students of impending changes as soon as possible.

Student Records

Student records are electronically maintained by the Graduate Academic Advisor in the College. The Open Record Policy is followed, and students can review their own records.

All nursing students are responsible for updating official changes in names and contact information (mailing address, phone number, email address) in the appropriate student database. They are also responsible for notifying the Graduate Nursing Academic Advisor, CGS, and Registrar's of these changes. Students may not receive important information that affects progression through the program or eligibility for graduation if contact information is not current.

Section VI

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Professional Honor Societies

- Sigma Theta Tau International/Eta Omicron Chapter at TAMU-CC. The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is the only international honor society for nursing and is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The society recognizes achievement of superior quality, fosters high professional standards, encourages creative work, and recognizes the development of leadership qualities. The organization strengthens the individual's commitment to the ideals and purposes of professional nursing. Sigma Theta Tau is a scholarly professional nursing that promotes the best in nursing.
 - TAMU-CC students who meet the eligibility criteria for membership as outlined in Sigma Theta Tau are eligible to join induction into Eta Omicron, TAMU-CC's founding chapter. Eligible students receive invitations to join the chapter via their Islander email account. Formal induction ceremonies are held twice annually.
- Phi Kappa Phi. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi—the nation's oldest all-discipline honor society — established its Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi chapter in 2014. The A&M University–Corpus Christi chapter is the 328th chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, which was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine. Graduate Students who meet the eligibility criteria will be invited by the chapter to join Phi Kappa Phi (no nomination letters needed). Graduate students must have completed 18 credit hours and rank in the top 10% of their class.

Professional Organizations

- [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#). AACN is the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education. AACN works to establish quality standards for nursing education; assists schools in implementing those standards; influences the nursing profession to improve health care; and promotes public support for professional nursing education, research, and practice. (requires institutional membership).
- [American Association of Nurse Practitioners \(AANP\)](#). The AANP is the national organization for nurse practitioners. Specific information for post-master's student membership is also available and may be of particular interest to you if you are an NP in TAMUCC's DNP program.
- [American Colleges of Healthcare Executives](#). The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) is an international association of healthcare executives often including high-level hospital administrators, CEOs, nursing executives, etc. Multiple local chapters exist throughout Texas.
- [American Nurses Association \(ANA\)](#). The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.4 million registered nurses. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing

practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all.

- [The American Organization of Nurse Leaders](#) provides leadership, professional development, advocacy, and research to advance nursing practice and patient care, promote nursing leadership excellence and shape public policy for health care nationwide. AONL is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association
- [National League for Nursing](#). For more than 100 years the NLN has been the premier organization for nurse faculty, schools of nursing, and leaders in nursing education. Currently the NLN is comprised of 40,000 individual and 1,200 institutional members representing all types of nursing programs from LPN/LVN through doctorate education.
- [National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties](#). The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) is specifically devoted to promoting high quality nurse practitioner (NP) education. Today, the organization represents a global network of NP educators.
- [Texas Nurses Association \(TNA\)](#). TNA along with the ANA empowers nurses to advance the profession. TNA speaks out on crucial nursing issues such as workplace advocacy. Membership in TNA and ANA enables you to become a full participant in defining your profession now and into the future. Many of TNA's activities occur at the local — or district — level.
- [Texas Nurse Practitioners \(TNP\)](#). The primary mission of TNP is to serve as a voice of Texas Nurse Practitioners dedicated to improving patient access to quality health care. Please refer to the listing of affiliates in your area of the state.

This list is not exhaustive.

DNP LMS Organization Site

Current DNP User Guides, Documents, Tools and Resources such as the ones identified in this Handbook are housed in the DNP Organization.

DNP Day

In the fall semesters, students are required to attend DNP Day. Graduating students present their work via Poster Presentation. Matriculating students attend the poster session and attend several workshops geared toward the DNP Scholarly Project.

Program/College Awards

Every graduation cycle, graduate faculty can select an outstanding student per track: NP or ExL track.

In the fall semesters, DNP Scholarly Project student posters are evaluated at DNP Day by faculty and guests. Each poster is evaluated via rubric. The winner is awarded the Outstanding Evidence Based Project Award.

Conferences to Attend

Attending or presenting at annual leadership, education or nurse practitioner associate conferences is encouraged. The university may provide limited travel funds for presentations at conferences or subsidize travel to regional conferences.

Section VII

GENERAL INFORMATION

This section of the handbook includes standardized information about rules and policies pertaining to graduate education at Texas A&M University. It is not intended to be comprehensive. You are strongly encouraged to read the sections of the catalog pertaining to graduate students, which will provide more detail and additional topics that may impact you. You will also find information about your program.

Graduate Admissions

To be admitted to a program of graduate study, an applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or an equivalent foreign institution. (Note: The requirement to hold a bachelor's degree does not apply to students enrolling in the RN-MSN option in nursing.) Decisions concerning admission to graduate study are based on all admission criteria. To be considered for a graduate program, a minimum last 60-hour GPA of 2.5 is required. Some programs may have higher GPA requirements; review specific program information in the graduate catalog or elsewhere in this handbook. All applications must be made through [Apply Texas](#). For more information about the application process, visit the [Application Process](#) page on the CGS website or see the Catalog, [Graduate Admissions](#) section.

Graduate students should be aware of their enrollment status, as it may impact financial aid, veteran's benefits, or other important aspects of graduate life. In addition, international students have specific requirements about enrollment status. Enrollment status for graduate students is as follows:

Full-time graduate student	Fall or spring term = 9 hours Combined summer terms = 6 hours
Three-quarter-time graduate student	Fall or spring term = 7 hours Combined summer terms = 5 hours
Half-time graduate student:	Fall or spring term = 5 hours Combined summer terms = 3 hours

Continuous Enrollment

Unless on an approved leave of absence (see below), students in terminal degree programs must be enrolled continuously for at least 3 semester credit hours each fall and spring semester and pay designated tuition and fees. Individual programs may have additional credit hour requirements or may require students to continuously register in courses for a minimum of two consecutive terms which may include summer. See specific program information in the graduate catalog or elsewhere in this handbook for additional requirements for your program.

You should be aware that unapproved leaves in a fall or spring semester will result in having to re-apply to your program.

In addition, terminal degree students who have established graduate committees who are not continuously enrolled and do not have an approved Leave of Absence are subject to having their committee dissolved. The Graduate Faculty Representative (GFR) will be released. If the student reapplies and is readmitted, a new committee form will be required and a new GFR will be appointed.

Leave of Absence

Students experiencing life changing or catastrophic events should consult with their program coordinator and/or department chair and request [a Leave of Absence](#) in writing from the CGS using the [Request for Leave of Absence](#) form. A student who is in good standing may petition for a leave of absence of no more than two full academic terms. The maximum number of leave of absence requests permitted in a program is two. A request for a leave of absence requires approval in advance by the CONHS Graduate Advisor, respective Academic Program Coordinator, College Dean, and Dean of the CGS. If the Dean of the CGS approves the petition, the registration requirement is set aside during the period of time of the leave. Students should be aware that leaves of absences require suspension of all activities associated pursuit of the degree. See the catalog for more information.

Time Limit to Degree

The requirements for the DNP degree at Texas A&M University must be completed within seven years subsequent to admission to the program. The seven-year period begins the first semester of enrollment and is calculated from the date of degree conferral. Credit that is more than seven years old will not be counted towards a master's degree. Exceptions will require strong justification in writing from the student requesting the exception as well as submission of a revalidation plan. Credits earned at another university are not eligible for an exception. Written approval from the major department chairperson, the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Dean of the CGS, and the Provost are required. See the revalidation process below.

Revalidation of Courses Beyond Degree Time Limit

In order to revalidate dated courses, students should carefully attend to information in the catalog (see [Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements](#) section of the catalog. Revalidation requests should be made using the [Revalidation Request Form](#).

If your program has shorter time-to-degree limits, it may impact recency of credit and other timelines. See program information in this handbook or seek information from your Program Coordinator.

Academic Requirements for Graduate Work

Good Standing. Graduate Students, including degree-seeking, certificate-seeking, and non-degree-seeking students are considered in “good academic standing” if they maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on all graduate course work and earn a grade of S (Satisfactory), IP (In Progress, or CR (Credit) on all course work that does not affect GPA. A higher GPA may be required by some programs. In such cases, the higher standard will be substituted for 3.0 in all other matters related to good academic standing. A complete discussion of academic requirements including but not limited to scholastic probation and enforced withdrawal may be found in the Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements section of the catalog. For information regarding the effect of scholastic probation and enforced withdrawal, see the Financial Assistance Suspension Policy in the Tuition, Fees, & Financial Assistance section of the catalog.

Texas 99 Hour Rule (concerns doctoral hours)

The Texas State Legislator enacted a rule that provides that students at all state universities with over 99 doctoral hours may be subject to the payment of nonresident tuition. A student will generally be able to study at TAMU-CC full-time for five complete academic years, including summers, before being affected by the 99-hour rule. For students staying beyond five years, in a number of cases there is still the possibility of a programmatic or individual exemption from the rule. For more information, contact your Program Coordinator.

Additional Information

Information, policies, and procedures about tuition, fees, financial assistance, scholarships, and other topics important to graduate students can be found in the catalog. In addition to the catalog, web pages for offices and services on campus provide expanded information, forms, and contact names/phone numbers. Some of those webpages include the following:

[College of Graduate Studies](#)

[Office of Student Financial Assistance](#)

[Office of International Education](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[GROW](#)