

**SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**



**RN-BSN
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

Southwestern Oklahoma State University, an Oklahoma institution of higher education, was established by an act of the Oklahoma territorial legislature in 1901 as the Southwestern Normal School. Since that time, the institution has evolved to a regional university offering degrees in many areas of study including the health-related areas of pharmacy, medical technology, medical records administration, and nursing.

The Department of Nursing (DON) admitted its first student to the upper School clinical component of the nursing major during the Fall semester, 1977. The RN to BSN Program was started in 1993 as a week-end program that met on campus and through interactive television. In 2007, the nursing curriculum was made available online with no requirement to come on the Weatherford campus.

The program is state approved and nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc., 3390 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326.

SWOSU DEPARTMENT OF NURSING MISSION AND VISION

The Vision:

We are a dynamic, student-centered leader in nursing education.

The Mission:

Our mission is health promotion, restoration, and maintenance for all society through education of professional nurses, evidence-based practice, and service.

We are an established entity within the SWOSU College of Nursing and Health Professions and subscribe to the stated mission of SWOSU regarding teaching, professional growth, and service. We offer professional education to meet the changing healthcare needs of society and recognize the interrelationship between teaching, service, the dynamic process of adult learning, and the practice of nursing. The faculty endeavor to provide an environment that assists students to attain their full potential as adult learners and as professionals.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Program completion rates will be at or above those of the governing organization.
- 90% of graduates will be placed in a nursing position within one year of graduation.
- Student program satisfaction levels will meet the program defined benchmark (2 on a 1-5 scale with 1 being the highest).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Practice nursing in a professional, ethical, and legal manner.
- Analyze comprehensive data and make complex and prioritized decisions utilizing the nursing clinical judgment model.
- Provide a safe environment for clients, self, and others.
- Practice nursing that is client centered, caring, culturally sensitive and based on the physiological, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of clients.
- Integrate information technology resources into the provision of client care.
- Provide health-related education to restore health and promote optimal wellness.
- Collaborate with members of the interdisciplinary health care team to promote continuity of client care.
- Use leadership skills in the management of safe, quality client care. Promote quality improvement by participating in the implementation of care-related plans to improve health care services.
- Use research as a basis for evidence-based nursing practice and clinical judgment.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to have:

Graduated from an ACEN, CCNE, or NLN-CNEA accredited associate degree nursing program or met the following requirements ([RN-BSN Admissions for Non Accredited Schools](#)) for RN-BSN admissions.

Current unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state of Oklahoma or be in the process of obtaining such licensure from the state of Oklahoma. If licensure is not accomplished within the first semester, the student is awarded an "incomplete" in their completed course work and suspended from the program until successfully licensed.

By enrolling in the RN to BSN nursing program, students acknowledge that they have received and read the RN to BSN and Department of Nursing handbooks. All students are required to read and comply with the DON Student Handbook as well as the RN to BSN Handbook. The Handbooks are posted on the RN to BSN website.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS (See Appendix A)

RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION

In keeping with the policies of SWOSU, the scholastic records of a student are confidential and subject to examination only in official use in compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Official transcripts of scholastic records are issued to external sources through the SWOSU Academic Records office only by request of the student.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

A copy of financial assistance and scholarships/award information is available in the RN to BSN Central and available from the DON office.

The criteria for each Scholarship and Award are clearly stated and include behaviors and characteristics that can be assessed. These are available from the chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Each award applicant must complete an online award questionnaire. The cumulative grade point average will be utilized to determine eligibility for the scholarship when required. (See www.swosu.edu/nursing)

An estimated expense sheet is posted on the RN to BSN website and maintained in DON documents.

A record of recipients for each scholarship and award will be maintained in the DON files by the Student Affairs Committee.

Circumstances may arise which deem those awards and/or scholarships cannot be granted. The DON will grant every award and scholarship whenever possible.

ADVISEMENT:

Each student is assigned an advisor upon entering the program. Advisors are available for educational and professional counseling. The Department of Nursing adheres to the SWOSU add-drop policy and the SWOSU and DON policies and regulations when advising students.

[Rachel Davis](#) advises all RN-BSN students

Enrollment:

The RN-BSN Administrative Assistant (Enrollment Advisor) will initially discuss student preferred enrollment status (full or part-time status) and potential course sequences. After completion of the student's first semester at SWOSU, the student will be cleared to self-enroll in nursing and general education courses. Issues and Concepts must be taken in the last semester of the program which requires permission of the RN-BSN Administrative Assistant or advisor. To enroll, please contact rn-bsn@swosu.edu.

RN-BSN Administrative Assistant (Enrollment Advisor) responsibilities include:

- Maintaining advisement records
- Generating the initial degree check and suggested course sequence with the student
- Providing guidance to students regarding course choices

Student responsibilities include:

- Contacting the advisor in a timely manner when advisement is needed
- Keeping track of withdrawal and drop deadlines, enrollment deadlines, and all other academic calendar deadlines
- Timely enrollment to ensure that desired sections are open
- Communication of changes of plans to the advisor (ex. full or part-time student status, taking time off, etc.)
- Ensuring any courses taken at other schools will transfer by contacting [Molly Hawkins](#) and providing an official transcript of any courses taken outside of SWOSU to the Academic Records office in a timely manner
- Completing the necessary steps at the start of their last semester of course work (degree check to ensure all courses are completed, fill out application for graduation) to prepare for graduation
- Ensuring all course work indicated on the initial degree check is completed prior to anticipated graduation
- Monitoring academic progress that meets Department of Nursing policies (monitoring their own grades and GPA)
- Reviewing suggested course sequences (Appendix D)

ADMISSIONS RN TO BSN STUDENT

Applicants to the program should complete the online application from Southwestern Oklahoma State University homepage "apply" icon, [SWOSU Admissions Application](#).

PARTICIPATION, RETENTION, PROMOTION, PROBATION and DISMISSAL**Retention of a nursing student in good standing is dependent upon:**

- Maintenance of a retention grade point average of 2.5 or greater.
- Maintenance of a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in nursing, pre-professional, and prerequisite courses.
- Earning a minimum of 75% average in each course.
- Successful completion of all RN to BSN professional nursing courses with 75% average or better within two attempts. Students are only allowed to repeat a course once.
- Any RN-BSN student who has failed (with a D or F) in any two nursing courses will be dismissed from the RN-BSN program. Students who have experienced a personal or immediate family medical or other emergency and provided documentation to the Dean of Students will have their case considered by the Department of Nursing Admissions, Promotion, and Retention Committee.
- There is no academic forgiveness provision for professional-level nursing courses.

- The Department of Nursing RN to BSN program rounds grades for grade of .5 or above (ex: 89.5 rounds to A).

Initial course participation:

- Students must submit a grade-eligible classroom activity before the end of the course census date (by the seventh day for 8-week term) to satisfy the initial participation requirements.
- Students who have satisfied the requirement for initial course participation or who withdraw from the course will be held to the withdrawal dates posted by the Enrollment office.
- To view the SWOSU enrollment policies, please visit [Academic Records](#). Students who do not satisfy the requirement for initial course participation will be administratively dropped from the course and subject to fees.
- The student may contact the Academic Records office to determine if tuition will be partially refunded on or after the 5th day and if so, in what amount.

Ongoing course participation:

- Students are expected to continuously participate in their courses to be successful.
- Students who do not participate in the assigned course module will receive a “zero” for the assignment(s) due during the student’s absence.

Probation policy:

Probation is a designated period of time warning the student that unless satisfactory improvement is made in specified areas and conditions are met, certain actions will result. Actions may include penalties up to dismissal from the nursing program. Probation may be instituted at any time following notification to the student in question’s SWOSU email address if an online student, or campus mailbox if an on-campus student. The faculty members consult with the course or program coordinator to determine the conditions of the contract and the time frame for student improvement. During that time the student must meet contract goals and all objectives. The person(s) instituting the probation will sign, either electronically (online instructors) or in person (on-campus instructors) the notice of probation. A student may be placed on program probation by any faculty member, program administrator, or the Admissions, Promotion, and Retention committee. A copy of the form will be placed in the student’s file, and also provided to the course instructor, course coordinator, program administrators, and the Admissions, Promotion, and Retention Committee. Probation will continue, at minimum, for the time frame specified on the probation form, and may continue throughout the program. The student must meet the terms of the probation contract for the duration of the probation term. If a student makes a final grade of “D” or “F” in any course, the Admissions, Promotion, and Retention Committee will be notified via the Course Non-Progression form. Upon promotion to the next semester or completion of the probationary period, the contract will be evaluated by the person(s) who instituted or continued the probation contract, and the student will be notified of the outcome of the probation, including a range of results from a return to good standing to dismissal from the program. The DON adheres to SWOSU policies which govern the dismissal of students convicted of felony or drug abuse (SWOSU Student Handbook).

Academic Probation/At Risk

The probation form (see appendices) is used to notify the student of probation or at-risk status and to document student performance issues leading to probation or at-risk status. A student will be placed on academic probation for failing to meet any of the required retention standards detailed above. Some behaviors that could lead to academic probation include but are not limited to:

- GPA less than 2.0 in nursing courses or in overall retention GPA

- Exam score or average of 75% or less
- Additionally, a student will be placed on at-risk status for at least one semester following academic probation. This status allows faculty members to best serve as a resource to support student success.

Non-Academic or Program Probation

A student will be placed on non-academic probation or program probation for failing to meet professional standards, whether the incident occurs at a clinical or practicum site, online, or in the classroom. Depending on the type and severity of the infraction, the student may be placed on non-academic probation, program probation, or asked to withdraw from the course or the program. Non-academic probation will be effective during the semester it is started and for at least one additional semester. Program probation remains effective throughout the program. Some examples of behaviors that could lead to non-academic or program probation include but are not limited to:

- Inability to demonstrate professional communication skills with faculty, coworkers, fellow students or clients. This includes abusive language, emails, and discussion posts.
- Violation of professional ethics such as carelessness with client confidentiality, failure to comply with agency policies, violation of the therapeutic nurse/client relationship or inability to acknowledge and remediate weaknesses or areas as identified by faculty members
- Plagiarism, whether of self, others, blatant or inadvertent
- Academic dishonesty, including collaboration on an assignment intended to be completed by an individual or sharing
- Consistently fails to meet obligations, including timeliness
- Failures to recognize implications of behavior for the professional role
- Does not take initiative and/or takes initiative inappropriately, thereby endangering client's safety and well-being
- Exhibits negligent behaviors causing potential irreversible damage to the client
- Violation of PHI policy, such as falsifying or plagiarizing care plans, NEEHR Perfect charting or other assignments or violating patient confidentiality
- Program probation is generally reserved for severe violations or repeated violations. Determination of whether an act violates policy is the sole discretion of the faculty or proctor
- The list provided above represents common violations but is not an exhaustive list of potential violations

RN-BSN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

What is academic integrity?

Academic integrity means that a student's scholarship is:

- Honest
- Responsible
- Their own work as a result of their own understanding and effort

What is academic dishonesty and how is it detected/reported?

Academic dishonesty results in an inaccurate evaluation of the student's work and occurs when the student knew or should have known that the act was not acceptable. Some examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to).

1. **CHEATING AND UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL ON EXAMINATIONS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS.** Assignments must be completed by the student alone unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
2. **IMPROPER COLLABORATION-** unless collaboration is approved by the instructor, otherwise it is assumed that all work submitted is based on the student's own

understanding and efforts, and is presented in the student's own words, calculations, etc. This includes attempting to cheat, such as bringing unauthorized materials into a test, even if the examination has not yet begun.

3. **SUBMITTING THE SAME ASSIGNMENT OR SIGNIFICANTLY SIMILAR ASSIGNMENTS FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OR FOR THE SAME CLASS THAT A STUDENT IS RETAKING.** This is known as assignment recycling or self-plagiarism and is not acceptable. Each assignment should be new, original work created by the student to meet the objectives of that particular assignment.
4. **CREATING, ALTERING, OR FORGING OF DOCUMENTS, OR TO GAIN AN ACADEMIC ADVANTAGE.** This can include but is not limited to lying or falsifying documentation to obtain an excused absence, extension, or course incomplete. This could also include fabricating quotes or data.
5. **ASSISTING OTHERS IN ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.** Helping someone else cheat is a violation, for example, providing homework assignments or papers to others.
6. **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, HACKING, AND COMPUTER PIRACY.** Stealing or destroying the work of others to attempt to obtain an academic advantage. This also applies to unauthorized access to faculty offices, publisher test banks, university email accounts, or learning management systems to gain an academic advantage.
7. **INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE WITH ACADEMIC DISHONESTY PROCESSES.** For example, it is a violation to threaten or bribe someone to prevent that person from reporting or testifying to academic dishonesty, to lie to a school official or instructor, or to a member of the Appeals Committee.
8. **PLAGIARISM.** Plagiarism, whether of self or others, is a serious offense. Students acknowledge that by taking RN to BSN courses, all required papers, threaded discussions or other written learning activities may be submitted for textual similarity review using plagiarism detection software. All assignments contribute to student learning and achievement of outcomes, and all submissions are assumed to be composed entirely of words written by the student, excluding the use of correct APA citations. Plagiarism may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Copying part or all of a paper from the Internet, from a book, or from another source without correct APA citation.
 - b. If you copy words, even citing the source, and more than five words in a row are identical, this is plagiarism, even if you cite the source, unless you indicate that the words are a direct quote. However, this does not mean that you can just change a few words here and there, and then provide the source.
 - c. Students should ensure that direct quotations and paraphrasing is kept to a minimum of less than 15% of their paper. The work is to be an analysis of what you have learned, not simply a series of quotes that rehash what you've read.
 - d. Paraphrasing is fine when you cite the source and then include new information in your own words; it does not mean just using a series of quotes and slightly altering the wording. Your paper must be so significantly different from the original resources that it is a new work.
 - e. It is plagiarism to present someone else's original arguments, thoughts, reasoning, or data as your own, even if you put the material in your own words. To avoid this form of plagiarism, cite the source.
 - f. A submitted paper, examination, discussion, or assignment that contains data or conclusions which, upon questioning, the student cannot explain, support or demonstrate direct knowledge is considered plagiarism
 - g. Self-plagiarism is also not permissible. Students may not "re-use" or "recycle" old assignments.
 - h. Use of any tool, such as a survey or assessment tool, without granted

- permission and citation constitutes academic dishonesty
- i. Two or more submitted papers, discussions, exams, or other assignments that contain a resemblance beyond the bounds of reasonable coincidence will be considered plagiarism.

How is academic dishonesty detected?

Plagiarism detection software

- If the similarity rate exceeds 15% (excluding referencing), the student must re-submit a corrected version in which the similarity rate does not exceed 15%. Note, for courses that use standard forms or templates that students must fill out, this does not apply to the required form or template itself, only to the information that the student enters into the template.
- Students will be permitted unlimited resubmission attempts up to the due date of the paper.
- Students are responsible for reviewing their own submission report and making the changes needed to their assignment prior to the deadline
- If, at the time of the due date, the paper exceeds 15% similarity, the faculty member will assign a grade of zero, whether the paper is plagiarized or self-plagiarized and the student will be placed on program probation

Additionally, any student or faculty member can report a violation of academic integrity to the RN to BSN Program Coordinator, their advisor, the course instructor, Department of Nursing Chair, or the Dean.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) detection software

Students can choose to use AI tools (such as ChatGPT or DALL-E) to help brainstorm assignments or projects, or to revise existing course work. However, in all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged, and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Using an AI-content generator to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. If students choose to use content generating tools as part of their course work, they must acknowledge their use with a statement explaining how the tools were used as part of their assignment submission such as in the following: "In completing this homework, I used [insert AI program name] for the following components of my process: [brainstorming, editing, sentence generation, etc.]." Failure to acknowledge the use of AI generated content will be considered plagiarism, and result in the same consequences as other types of plagiarism. Students should also be aware of the potential benefits and limitations of using AI as a tool for learning and research. AI systems can provide helpful information or suggestions, but they are not always reliable or accurate. Students should critically evaluate the sources, methods, and outputs of AI systems to ensure the quality of generated content as it relates to course assignments. Students are fully responsible for the information submitted based on a generative AI query (such that it does not violate academic honesty standards, intellectual property laws, or standards of non-public research conducted through coursework).

What happens when a student is charged with academic dishonesty?

- Students who plagiarize (self or others) or commit academic dishonesty will receive a zero for the assignment which will then be a part of the student's grade calculation
- A student who commits plagiarism or any other academic dishonesty will be placed on program probation. Failure or refusal of the student to sign the program probation form does not negate the probation contract.
- Students who have previously been placed on program probation and commit a second act of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will be removed from the

program. This includes the discovery of any past academic dishonesty while in the program.

- Students who have committed academic dishonesty including plagiarism will be required to return their program probation form signed or with an indication that they refuse to sign within 5 business days of receiving notice of the reported violation, and to contact the Dean and their program advisor regarding the probation. Failure to do so will result in a student waiving the rights to a Department of Nursing investigation, although the student may still appeal beyond the Department of Nursing.

Students have the right to contest charges of academic dishonesty. The first step in contesting either one is first discussing the issue with the course instructor. If the issue is not resolved, the chain of command for reporting the violation is then:

- RN to BSN Course Coordinator
- Department of Nursing Chair
- Dean of Nursing and Health Professions
- Provost
- Academic Appeals Committee

The purpose of the investigation is to gather evidence about the charge of academic dishonesty. Following the investigation, the investigators will discuss their findings as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence to overturn the ruling with the student.

Note: In some cases, an instructor may conclude that the security of an exam or other assignment has been significantly compromised, even if all specific violations have not been discovered. In those cases, the instructor, working with his or her Department of Nursing Chair and/or Dean, has the authority to cancel the assignment and redistribute the points assigned to other coursework, create a substitute assignment or exam, or both, provided that this course of action applies to all students in the course. In this instance, any reduction in the students' grade due to assignment cancellation or substitution is not considered a grade penalty.

READMISSION TO NURSING MAJOR

A student who has withdrawn, for any reason, from the nursing major, may request readmission to the program. The student is to submit a letter to the Admissions, Promotion and Retention Committee requesting re-admission, including rationale, prior to the semester in which they wish to enroll. The student may not take any nursing curriculum course more than twice. The Admissions, Promotion and Retention Committee may request supportive data as deemed necessary. The student may enter the program a total of (2) times, including the initial admission and one readmission. Readmission will be determined by the Admissions, Promotion and Retention Committee, with Faculty Committee approval, based upon academic, personal, and professional data. A significant lapse of time (more than five years) between the completion of a nursing course and re-entry into SWOSU Department of Nursing will require the student to begin the Department of Nursing initial admissions process again. In addition, after five years, those who wish to re-enter the Nursing Program must complete a current application and will be reassigned to the current degree catalog requirements.

SWOSU STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY
Student Grievance Procedure
For
TITLE IX, TITLE VI, SECTION 504, AND ADA

Southwestern Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, American With Disabilities Act of 1990 and other Federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Students who feel they have been discriminated against or denied an opportunity because of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in a vocational program and activities have the right to file a grievance.

Grievance Coordinator
Dean of Students
Gen. Tom Stafford Center, Room 214
580-774-3767

INFORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Step 1.

If a complainant feels that he/she has been discriminated against, the individual with a disability must first bring the problem to the attention of the Grievance Coordinator within (5) working days of the knowledge or alleged cause for grievance occurs.

Step 2.

The coordinator will work informally to negotiate a solution within (5) school days or a total of (10) school days from filing a grievance.

Step 3.

If the grievance cannot be satisfactorily resolved working informally, the student may want to proceed to file a formal grievance within (5) school days or a total of (15) school days from filing a grievance.

Step 4.

A formal grievance may be filed within (15) days of starting the informal Grievance Process by following the procedures outlined in the Formal Grievance Process.

This grievance procedure is a prerequisite for the pursuit of other remedies.

FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals Policy

Purpose Statement/Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to provide students with clear, formal procedures for communicating complaints, grievances, and appeals through the appropriate chain of command. This process ensures that concerns are addressed promptly and fairly while fostering the development of problem-solving skills essential for professional nursing practice.

Complaints: First step

Within the Department of Nursing, the following procedure should be followed:

- a. Students are encouraged to meet to discuss the complaint directly with the nursing instructor most directly involved, and attempt resolution informally.
- b. If the student is not comfortable approaching the nursing instructor directly, or is not satisfied with the result of their meeting, the student should discuss the matter in a timely fashion with the course coordinator (traditional BSN program) or program coordinator (LPN-to-BSN, RN-to-BSN, and MSN programs) via the contact listed in the syllabus. The coordinator will provide consultation in an effort to resolve the complaint informally and will provide a copy of this policy to the student.
- c. If the student remains dissatisfied with the result of this meeting, he or she should present the complaint to the nursing department chair as listed in the course syllabus, along with any documentation related to the complaint. The nursing department chair will investigate the complaint, discuss the complaint with the student and any other involved parties, and will make a decision regarding the complaint.

Grievances: Second step

- a. If the student remains dissatisfied with the result of the informal intervention of the complaint, she/he should present the concern as a formal grievance in writing to the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean shall investigate the matter thoroughly and respond to the student in writing within 10 business days.
- b. If the student wishes to appeal the decision of the Academic Dean, they will follow the procedures outlined in the Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Student Handbook. Generally, grievances regarding non-academic misconduct will be handled via the Dean of Students. Grievances regarding academic misconduct will be handled via the Provost.

Appeals

In keeping with university grievance procedures (see the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Student Handbook), students who feel academic regulations and procedures have been improperly applied in specific instances may have their grievances addressed through the general appeals processes. These concerns include, but are not limited to:

- a. Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Student Grievance Procedure
- b. Sexual Harassment Complaint Process
- c. Working Conditions Complaint Process
- d. FERPA Complaint Process
- e. Student Academic Appeals Procedure
- f. Appeals Process for Student Conduct Sanctions

Formal grievances will be kept for accreditation purposes for the amount of years required by the accrediting body.

PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF A REQUEST TO CHANGE A GRADE TO A WITHDRAWAL (W)

The deadline for filing a REQUEST TO CHANGE A GRADE TO A WITHDRAWAL (W) GRADE form with the Office of the Provost is no later than (1) regular semester after the grade was assigned.

Grades assigned during spring semester: Apply during summer session or no later than the close of the 6th week of the following fall semester.

Grades assigned during summer session: Apply no later than the close of the 6th week of the following fall semester.

Grades assigned during fall semester: Apply no later than the close of the 6th week of the following spring semester.

Upon receipt of the completed REQUEST TO CHANGE A GRADE TO A WITHDRAWAL (W) GRADE form, the Office of the Provost will notify the instructor, department chair, dean of the school, and Academic Appeals Committee members within (10) class days.

The REQUEST TO CHANGE A GRADE TO A WITHDRAWAL (W) GRADE form must include signatures of the student and the instructor of record (or department chair if the original instructor is no longer available).

The committee will convene within (15) class days after the beginning of the semester following the receipt of the request notice from the Office of the Provost.

The committee will review the request for compliance with institutional or other policies and regulations.

Determine whether the request should be granted and notify the Provost's Office of the decision within (7) days after convening. The Academic Records office will then communicate the decision to the student, instructor of record and department chair.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

The Department of Nursing adheres to SWOSU policy regarding incomplete course grade. (See SWOSU Student Handbook.)

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (commonly called the Buckley Amendment), Southwestern Oklahoma State University hereby institutes the following policies effective November 19, 1974. These policies shall be published annually in the Update on Contemporary Issues. Additional copies are available to any student or interested party, on request, in the Academic Records office.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the

University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. Parents of dependent students as documented by the most recent federal income tax form are entitled to see the educational records. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the University discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by *Southwestern Oklahoma State University* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605
202-260-3887

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, SWOSU identifies the following numbered items as "directory information." This information can be released to interested parties on a "need to know" basis unless the custodian of the record is notified in writing to the contrary by the tenth-class day at the beginning of each semester:

1. Student's name
2. Local and permanent address
3. Telephone number
4. Date and place of birth
5. Major and field of study
6. Academic classification
7. Participation in officially recognized organizations, activities and sports
8. Weight and height of participants in officially recognized sports
9. Educational institutions previously attended
10. Dates of attendance at SWOSU
11. Degrees and awards granted
12. Degree(s) held, date(s) granted and institution(s) granting such degree(s)
13. Part of full-time enrollment status
14. Photographs of enrolled students

RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Faculty Facilitation

The learning experiences of a student are facilitated by a faculty member of the Department of Nursing who is assigned to the course in which the experience(s) occur.

Grading

- To pass a nursing course a student must receive at least 75% average.
- Other requirements are established in individual courses and outlined in course syllabi.
- The Department of Nursing RN to BSN program rounds grades for grade of .5 or above (ex: 89.5 rounds to A).
- Any questions regarding graded assignments must be brought to the attention of the professor within (5) days of the posting of grades.

Grading Criteria:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 75-79

D = 74-67

F = 66 and below

Attendance

Class non-participation will be reflected in the overall course grade. Students are responsible for all assignments, quizzes, exams, discussions, and information given during their absence. Faculty should be notified in advance prior to any planned course absence of greater than five days. Please review the policy on initial and ongoing course participation.

Late Policy for all Exams, Assignments and Discussions

Late Item	Deduction	Any exceptions
Discussion	NO LATE DISCUSSIONS ACCEPTED FOR PARTIAL CREDIT after the close of the discussion week	Personal or family emergency as documented and reported via the requirements below; no accommodations will be made after the end of the course or >5 days after the due date
Assignments	5% deduction per day late (penalty accrues immediately after due date. Ex- assignment due at 11:59pm that is turned in at 12:00am the next day is a 5% deduction)	Personal or family emergency as documented and reported via the requirements below; no accommodations will be made after the end of the course or >5 days after the due date
Quizzes or exams	10% deduction per day late (penalty accrues immediately after due date. Ex- assignment due at 11:59pm that is turned in at 12:00am the next day is a 10% deduction).	Personal or family emergency as documented and reported via the requirements below; no accommodations will be made after the end of the course or >5 days after the due date

Students who need accommodations due to a personal or family emergency are expected to notify the Dean of Students **prior** to the due date of the assignment. This can be done by emailing deanoffice@swosu.edu from your SWOSU email account and cc'ing your advisor on the email. Accommodations may be granted for students who:

- Have a death in the immediate family OR those who are hospitalized as a non-elective inpatient or have an immediate family member hospitalized as a non-elective inpatient

- Documentation must be provided within two business days of notifying Dean of Students and your advisor

Requests for accommodations will not be granted after 5 days have passed since the assignment's or exam's due date, or after the end of the course as indicated on the course schedule. Late discussions will not receive any type of credit after the close of the discussion week unless the late post was due to a family or personal emergency as defined above.

If students have difficulty submitting assignments, they must contact the help desk and carbon copy the instructor on any communications PRIOR to the due date, otherwise all late penalties will apply.

Participation/Evaluation of Discussion Responses

Discussions will be graded based on the most current RN to BSN discussion rubric, which can be viewed in the Assignments area of the Learning Management System. Students must make their initial post no later than Wednesday by 11:59pm CST. Students cannot alter their initial discussion post once posted to the discussion forum for any reason including misspelled words, grammar mistakes, or altering research references. Students must make two follow-up posts on a different day other than the day on which they made their initial post.

An initial contribution should be approximately 200 words. Comments to other students should either:

- Suggest why you might see things differently
- Ask a probing or clarifying question
- Share an insight from having read another student's posting
- Offer and support an opinion
- Validate an idea with your own experience
- Make a suggestion

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

To maintain the Right of the Client to Privacy, it is necessary for the student to be constantly diligent in refraining from dissemination of confidential information. This applies to verbal, written and non-verbal information. One of the highlights of the SWOSU academic experience is that students can draw on the wealth of examples from their organizations in class discussions and in their written work. However, it is imperative that students not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

The Department of Nursing uses an online learning system to instruct RN to BSN students. The verification of the identity of students who participate in distance education coursework, including all courses using the learning management system, at SWOSU may make use of variety of methods including but not limited to: (1) secure login and passcode; (2) proctored examinations; and (3) new or other technologies and practices that are effective in verifying the identity of students. SWOSU uses these reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect student privacy. **Please Note: Each student entering the RN to BSN program at SWOSU must complete a short online orientation on the RN to BSN Central online site.**

ATTIRE

Students are to be well groomed and professionally dressed when acting in the student role.

STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK

- All work, written or typed using Microsoft Word, is grammatically correct, properly punctuated, spelled correctly and legible.
- Appropriate, descriptive terminology will be used.
- Papers received after specified time and due date will be accepted/evaluated according to the specific course syllabus. Refer to "Late Assignment."
- All written work must follow the specified format, according to the *American Psychological Association Manual for Publication (APA)*.
- SWOSU Department of Nursing uses plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism can lead to course failure and non-academic probation.

VOLUNTEER SELF-IDENTIFICATION

If any student feels that he/she has a disability and needs special academic accommodations, the Department will work with you and Student Services to provide reasonable accommodations. This will ensure that you have an equal opportunity to perform in class. Please advise the school of such disability if an accommodation is desired.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

In keeping with the policies of SWOSU, the Department of Nursing subscribes to SWOSU's Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the SWOSU Student Handbook. In addition, the faculty has identified policies relative to the following areas:

PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION POLICY

Principles: Protected health information (PHI) is confidential and protected from access, use, or disclosure except to authorized individuals requiring access to such information. Attempting to obtain or use, actually obtaining or using, or assisting others to obtain or use PHI, when unauthorized or improper, will result in counseling and/or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. To maintain client privacy, it is necessary for the student to avoid dissemination of protected health information. By entering the program, students agree to abide by this policy.

Definitions and Caveats:

- PHI = Protected health information; this includes all forms of patient-related data including but not limited to demographic information, patient condition, care provided, and outcome of care
- Depending on the nature of the breach, violations at any level may result in more severe action or termination after a preliminary investigation to assign a level of violation
- Levels I-II are considered to be without malicious intent; Level III connotes malicious intent
- At Level III, individuals may be subject to civil and/or criminal liability
- Note: Faculty or staff may decide some client problems are not appropriate for student involvement. In these instances, you will NOT be allowed to participate.
- With faculty and facility approval, students may obtain a copy of generic education or policy materials that DO NOT contain PHI. An example might be generic discharge instructions for patients having day surgery, without any PHI, or a facility policy on blood glucose monitoring without PHI.

Level I Violations

- Misdirected faxes, emails & mail.
- Failing to log-off or close or secure a computer with protected PHI displayed.
- Leaving copy of PHI in a non-secure area.
- Discussing PHI in a non-secure area (lobby, hallway, cafeteria, elevator, etc., where others are likely to overhear).

Minimum Disciplinary/Corrective Action for Level 1 Violations

- After investigation, the incident will be presented to the Faculty committee for appropriate disciplinary action, which may include a zero on the assignment, a needs improvement score on clinical evaluation tool, non-academic probation or, for repeated instances, dismissal from the course or program.

Level II Violations

- Releasing, removing, or otherwise using patient data without facility and instructor approval for any reason. You may not print, photograph, or otherwise remove patient data from any site except that which you write in your own words for care planning needs. Paraphrasing or restating a prior provider's notes is unacceptable.
- Accessing or allowing access to PHI without having a legitimate reason.
- Giving an individual access to your electronic signature or password.
- Accessing patient information due to curiosity or concern, such as a family member, friend, neighbor, coworker, famous or "public" person, etc.
- Taking photos at the clinical site that do not include any patient or members of the public in the photograph without the express permission of the instructor.
- Social networking that discusses the clinical site in any way but does not disclose any PHI (example- "Had a terrible night at Big Hospital OB clinicals," or "Loved my day at Small Emergency Department!").
- Negative comments about facilities, staff, patients, or other guests of the facility.
- Calling clinical sites to request patient information over the telephone.
- Asking questions about client care or care plans within the hearing of the patient or other facility guest. Students should ask questions of other staff or team members in private when collaborating with other team members.
- Failing to remove names or other identifying PHI from records, including care plans, Neehr Perfect charting, or other assignments.
- Requesting another individual to inappropriately access patient information.
- Inappropriate sharing of ID/password with another or encouraging others to share ID/password OR use of another's password.
- Taking photos at the clinical site that include the patient, any member of the public, PHI without written permission of the instructor, clinical site, and any involved individual.

Minimum Disciplinary/Corrective Action for Level II Violations

- After investigation, the incident will be presented to the Faculty committee for appropriate disciplinary action, which includes a minimum of non-academic OR program probation, a zero on the assignment and/or clinical evaluation of "needs improvement".
- Repeated instances may lead to course or program dismissal.

Level III Violations

- Releasing or using data for personal gain.
- Compiling a mailing list to be sold for personal gain or for some personal use.
- Disclosure or abusive use of PHI.
- Tampering with or unauthorized destruction of information.

- Falsifying data on the patient records, care plan, or Neehr Perfect, including charting assessments not performed, including "pre-charting," or documenting a previous assessment that was not your own.
- Social networking that in any way makes it possible for disclosure of PHI (example- student identifies the clinical site and general details about the patient).
- Use of recording devices at any clinical site or activity without written permission of those being recorded, faculty, and the facility.
- Removal of any official portion of the patient chart.

Minimum Disciplinary/Corrective Action for Level III Violations

- After investigation, the incident will be presented to the Faculty committee for appropriate disciplinary action, which includes dismissal from the course and a failure of any related assignments at a minimum, and may include dismissal from the program.

***Note** - students who are already on non-academic probation at the time of the incident will, at minimum, be placed on program probation. Students who are already on program probation at the time of the incident will be dismissed from the program.

AT HOME EXAMINATION POLICY

As an ethical professional student, you are expected to protect the integrity of this examination and refrain from copying the case situation and the exam questions and /or distributing them to anyone else. This includes current or future students at any time. Similar situations may be used with future students, and they should be as novel to them as they were to you so they may have the maximum benefit from the learning experience. As a student member of a self-policing profession, you are also expected to help ensure that others in the class adhere to these policies.

Appendix A

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Feature	Recommendation
Operating System	Windows: Windows 10 latest version Mac: MacOS latest version
Display Size	Windows: 11.6" or larger Mac: 13" or larger
Processor	Windows: Intel Core i5, i7, or similar AMD Mac: Intel Core i5, i7, or M1 chip
Memory	Windows: 8 GB or higher Mac: 8 GB or higher
Hard Drive	Windows: 256 GB or larger Mac: 256 GB or larger
Web Conferencing Software	MS Teams – Available free to students Zoom – Available free to students
Network	Wireless

Camera, Speakers, Microphone	Internal or external is acceptable
Office 365	Available free to students
Respondus LockDown browser	Can be downloaded from swosu.edu website

Note: Students should have personal internet connections as some workplaces block all or part of the learning management material.

Appendix B

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING NOTICE OF PROBATION

(Student name) _____ has been placed on course/program (circle one) probation as of (date) _____. The student must make and keep an appointment with the course instructor/coordinator for course probation within two business days. For online programs, this appointment may be via email, telephone, or video/web conference. Failure to do so may lead to program probation or dismissal.

Probation: Probation is for serious violations that may include (not exhaustive):

- Placing or potentially placing a patient at risk, such as unsafe skill performance or unsafe medication administration
- violating the student handbook, clinical, or course policies in a severe or repeated manner
- disrespecting staff or faculty, either at the Department of Nursing or a clinical site
- committing academic dishonesty such as plagiarism or cheating
- evaluation period may be at the end of the course or at the end of the program dependent on the severity of the offense

Reason for probation:

Conditions to be met during probation and recommendations from faculty for improvement (please check those that apply)

☐ **No further instances of initial cause for probation**

☐ **Must remediate clinical "Needs Improvement" rating by:** _____

☐ **Other:** _____

Consequences if conditions are not met:

☐ **Failure of clinical**

☐ **Failure of course**

☐ **Program Probation**

☐ **Dismissal from program**

☐ **Other:** _____

Student plan to address reason for probation:

Student signature acknowledging receipt: _____ **Date:** _____

*= If student refuses to sign, faculty should write "refused" with a date and time. Refusal of the student to sign does not negate the probation.

	Faculty initial and date
Faculty/administrator initiating probation	
Faculty member(s) initials and date	
Chair OR Dean initials and dates	

For the RN to BSN program, required signatures are course instructor, program coordinator, and Chair OR Dean.

Revised 5/2024

Appendix C

PROBATION CONTRACT CONTINUATION AND EVALUATION

☐ **Probation evaluation period: end of course OR end of program (circle one)**

Evaluation of this probation/at risk status will be conducted by _____

Explanation of evaluation of probation/at risk status:

At the end of the evaluation period, the student was:

- ☐ Returned to good standing
☐ Retained on probation
☐ Failure of course/clinical
☐ Dismissed from the program
☐ Referred to: _____
☐ Other: _____

Student signature acknowledging receipt: _____ Date: _____

*= If student refuses to sign, faculty should write "refused" with a date and time. Refusal of the student to sign does not negate the probation.

	Faculty initial and date
Faculty member/administrator evaluating probation	
Faculty members	
Chair OR Dean	

For the RN to BSN program, required signatures are course instructor, program coordinator, and Chair OR Dean.

Copy: Student, Student File, Faculty Member or Administrator initiating probation, Program Coordinator, Chair of Admissions, Promotion, and Retention Committee, Chair/Dean.

Revised 5/2024

Appendix D

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCES AND SELF-ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Students must take Bridging Nursing Paradigms in their first semester of the program and Issues and Concepts in their last semester of the program. With those exceptions, students may take other courses in any order. Students may take general education and pre-professional courses at any time before, during, or after nursing courses.

NURS 4603 - Bridging Nursing Paradigms (must be take first) – 3 hours
NURS 4613 – Nursing Statistics and Evidence-Based Practice – 3 hours
NURS 4623 – Wellness Through Health Promotion – 3 hours
NURS 4633 – Ethics and Caring – 3 hours
NURS 4643 – Theory and Practice Elective – 3 hours
NURS 4653 – Nursing Informatics – 3 hours
NURS 4663 – Community Nursing Across the Healthcare Continuum – 3 hours
NURS 4673 – Contemporary Nursing Leadership – 3 hours
NURS 4683 – Advanced Physical Assessment – 3 hours
NURS 4693 – Issues and Concepts (must be taken last) – 3 hours
Total=30 hours

How to enroll yourself in your courses:

1. After you have completed your first semester at SWOSU and grades are posted to your transcript, you will be cleared to enroll online. You can then enroll yourself in nursing courses anytime within the open enrollment dates. Please watch the RN to BSN orientation board and your SWOSU email for enrollment reminders. You can check enrollment dates by going to the SWOSU home page and also by checking the Academic Calendar. Enrollment for summer and fall generally begins the second Monday in February. Enrollment for spring generally begins the second Monday in October. It is your responsibility to enroll in a timely manner. Classes can close quickly, especially non-nursing courses.
2. If you are unsure what courses you need, please review your degree check prior to selecting classes. This is the form that you received when you applied to the program that tells you what classes you still need to complete your degree. You can also review your unofficial transcript within Self Service to see which courses you have already completed. All professional courses (those listed in the RN to BSN curriculum) must be taken.
3. Reminders: 12 hours in the fall or spring or 6 hours in the summer is considered full-time enrollment. Expect to spend 20 hours or more per week on schoolwork if you are enrolled full-time, less if you are enrolled part time.
4. Prior to enrolling, please review your Notifications in Self Service to make sure you do not have any holds on your account. This would include things like a Bursar Hold (often related to payment of tuition). If you have a hold on your account, you cannot enroll until this is cleared. Please call 580-774-3019 to reach the Bursar's office. Admission holds can be cleared by contacting.
5. When selecting general education courses, please log on to Self Service and select Course Catalog. This will tell you which general education courses are available online. If you wish to take a course locally that is not offered online at SWOSU, please make sure that the course will transfer to SWOSU. This can be done by contacting [Molly Hawkins](#)

and providing the course number and course description from the course catalog at the school you plan to attend to take the course.

6. Step by step instructions for self-enrollment are located in the online orientation canvas course "RN to BSN Central."
7. Note: Issues and Concepts must be taken in the last semester of your nursing classes, and this will require an email to rn-bsn@swosu.edu in order to enroll in this course.
8. Once enrolled, verify your enrollment by checking your class schedule on Self Service.
9. When you are enrolled for nursing courses, you can check the RN to BSN orientation course for the book list for your courses. If you are taking a general education online course, that course's instructor will tell you which books are needed.
10. Special circumstances:
 - Taking more than 11 hours in the 8 week term or 21 hours in the 16 week term is considered overload, and will need approval of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and your Advisor, as per the policy located here [Academic Records](#)
 - If you need a total withdrawal from the University for the semester, it is accomplished by submitting a [Request for Official Complete Withdrawal](#) in Etrieve.
11. If you need advisement or are unsure of which courses to take, please call the RN to BSN Department of Nursing at 580-774-3741 to discuss your questions.
12. Your tuition bill will not be mailed to you; it will be in your Self-Service account.

Appendix E

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Reminder of Policies for RN to BSN students

Dear _____ (student name), as of _____ (date), your exam score and/or average is currently < than the 75% required to pass the course. Maintaining the required average is a student responsibility, and failure to do so will result in failure of the course. Note, a student in the RN to BSN program is only allowed to repeat a course once. Please review the handbook's policy on retention and promotion.

Student plans to remediate performance and signature: _____

As a reminder, faculty members are available to you during office hours to assist you in succeeding in the course.

Faculty member initiating reminder:

Date: _____

Appendix F

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

WITHDRAWAL

Students may need to withdraw from an individual class or classes during a semester, or they may need to withdraw completely from all their currently enrolled classes during the semester.

1. To withdraw from an individual class, students should email enrollment@swosu.edu from your SWOSU email account and indicate the semester and course that you wish to drop and the student ID number or contact the Academic Records office at 580-774-3009.
2. A total withdrawal from the University for the semester is accomplished by submitting a [Request for Official Complete Withdrawal](#) in Etrieve. For withdraw dates, please see the academic calendar. A withdraw with instructor permission (after the guaranteed W date has passed), will show with a grade of either W or F on the student's transcript at the end of the semester when final grades are due. You will not see this on your transcript or Self-Service account until after final grades are processed. Grades of students leaving the University without officially withdrawing are recorded as "F." Refunds are made for approved total withdrawals according to dates published each semester in the class schedule bulletin. Total withdrawal from the university must be done prior to the first day of classes in order to avoid financial penalties.
3. The Refund Policy for SWOSU is maintained from past years, but the federal government has made changes related to federal student aid recipients who initiate complete withdrawals from the university. All students who receive federal aid, including the Federal Pell Grant, SEOG Grant, Stafford Loan, Unsubsidized Stafford Loan or Parent PLUS Loan, who withdraw during the first 60% of a semester must repay 60% of their aid back to the federal government. Students are strongly advised to confer with the Office of Student Financial Services before initiating a complete withdrawal so the economic impact of that decision can be clearly understood.