

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO COLLEGE OF NURSING



DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026 -2027

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT HANDBOOK



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO COLLEGE OF NURSING

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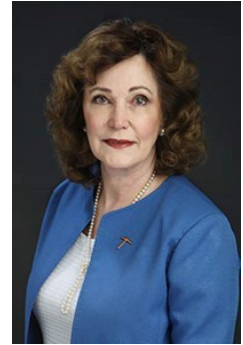
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A Message from the Dean

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the College of Nursing at the University of Texas at El Paso. I am confident that, with our support and your dedication, you will acquire the critical skills required for today's growing demands in the healthcare system.



For 50 years, the UTEP College of Nursing has been preparing the best and the brightest MSN prepared nurses in our community, our state, and nationwide. Our faculty have developed a robust and innovative curriculum designed with the latest industry expectations in mind. Our academic standards are high, but the faculty and I are committed to providing you with the knowledge and tools necessary to ensure your success and enhance your skills and clinical experience.

We prepared this handbook for you to use as a road map to the College of Nursing. The handbook is filled with information that will assist you in navigating graduate school and the classroom. Please review it carefully and contact your advisor/program coordinator if you have any questions.

We are proud to have you as our student. Go Miners!

Dr. Leslie Robbins

Leslie Robbins, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC (NM Only), FAANP,
ANEF Dean and Professor
Charles H. and Shirley T. Leavell Endowed Chair in Nursing
Associate Editor, *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice: An International Journal*

College of Nursing Mission and Vision

Mission:

The mission of the College of Nursing at the University of Texas at El Paso is to prepare baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral-level nurses to meet the diverse and complex needs of a competitive healthcare environment. We inspire evidence -based lifelong learning and utilization of advanced technologies by providing progressive research environment where students, faculty and researcher investigate our community's healthcare needs by implementing accountability, human dignity, and ethics. We seek to improve healthcare and quality of life in our diverse, multicultural, underserved local communities by empowering nursing graduates to become transformative leaders in the dynamic healthcare environment.

Vision:

The UTEP College of Nursing will prepare nursing leaders by providing student-centered nursing programs with academic rigor, integrating evidence-based knowledge in nursing education and clinical practice, and expanding nursing knowledge through healthcare research locally and binationally.

Guiding principles

- Access
- Excellence
- Impact
- Diversity

Our Values

CON Values: The core values of our college are accountability, civic engagement, collaboration, ethics, human dignity, inclusion, and innovation.

Accreditation

The Nursing Graduate Program (Doctor of Nursing Practice) has national accreditation through the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#) (CCNE).

The baccalaureate degree in nursing program and master's degree in nursing program at The University of Texas at El Paso are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750. Washington, DC, 20001, (202)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The College of Nursing offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the terminal academic preparation for clinical nursing practice. The DNP builds on the competencies of the master's degree and adds a highly advanced skill base in informatics and technology, evidence-based practice, continuous quality improvement, and organizational systems and leadership while providing an efficient vehicle for completing doctoral education.

Through excellence, innovation, and diversity, the CON graduate program curriculum prepares professional nurses for advanced leadership in enhanced practice, clinical scholarship, and role expansion. Enhancement of practice occurs through augmentation, refinement, and application of knowledge and theory. Supervised evidence-based projects enhance students' inquiry and research skills. Role expansion occurs through advanced practice in the clinical, educational, management and leadership arenas; functions to improve health care delivery, access, and quality; and increases professional responsibilities to society.

The University of Texas at El Paso College of Nursing DNP prepares graduates to meet both the DNP program outcomes, and ***The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006)*** established by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN):

- I. Scientific Underpinnings for Practice
- II. Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking
- III. Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice
- IV. Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care
- V. Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
- VI. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
- VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health
- VIII. Advanced Nursing Practice

DNP Program Outcomes

The University of Texas at El Paso College of Nursing DNP prepares graduates to meet the DNP program outcomes. Upon completion of the DNP program the graduate will:

1. Use information technology and evidence-based methodologies to analyze data for application in health care delivery, program development, practice guidelines development and problem solving.
2. Integrate knowledge and from the sciences: ethics; and political, economic, and social issues in responding to challenges in health care.
3. Assume a leadership role in the interdisciplinary environment to foster innovation in health care, effective communication, and enhanced patient outcomes.
4. Develop innovative approaches to improve health status and access to care for populations within a community of focus.
5. Demonstrate excellence as an APRN, providing evidence-based care for diverse populations, modeling full accountability for professional advancement and lifelong learning.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Degree Requirements

The DNP program is delivered in 5 full-time semesters (including summer), a 45-credit hour doctoral program. Requirements for earning the DNP degree include:

1. Completion of an approved program of study including 540 clinical hours, the majority of which (360), are completed in the last semester of the program as part of the DNP project.
2. Initiation, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of an evidence-based DNP project.
3. Development of a DNP Portfolio that demonstrates competency in evidence-based practice, clinical scholarship, and leadership skills including systems knowledge, information technology, and collaboration.
4. Completion of a total of 1000 clinical hours post-baccalaureate nursing.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR DNP

Admission Standards

The DNP program builds upon the specialty certification of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), such as nurse practitioners (NP), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), and certified nurse midwives (CNM). Thus, application is at the post-master's level. The DNP council, as the CON admissions committee, considers the following prior to recommending an applicant for admission.

1. Intellectual capacity, based on overall collegiate GPA; goal statement; standardized test scores (TOEFL) if applicable; academic awards/honors; scholarly accomplishments; and a personal interview.
2. Written and oral communication skills and ability to articulate personal goals.
3. Community service, such as extracurricular activities, membership and leadership in organizations, volunteer, and humanitarian services.
4. Awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements as they may impact healthcare.
5. Potential for service to the State of Texas, such as faculty members currently teaching in a Texas nursing program or APRNs committed to serving marginalized and underserved populations along the U.S.-Mexico border.
6. Motivation and success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history; participation in activities requiring time management skills; veteran status; and letters of reference

Prior to admission, applications and official transcripts are submitted online to the Graduate School for evaluation. Final decisions regarding admission are made by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the DNP Program Coordinator and the DNP Council. Applicants for DNP are evaluated based on academic history, experience, letter of intent, and interview.

DNP Requirements for Admission

1. Eligibility for admission to UTEP Graduate School (including completion of the TOEFL with a score of 550 or higher and all requirements for the Commission on Foreign Graduate Nursing Schools (CFGNS) for international students).
2. Completion of a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or its equivalent in the case of foreign-prepared APNs.
3. GPA of 3.0 or higher from master's nursing degree course work.
4. Current unencumbered registered nurse license.
5. Approval by the Board of Nursing, or its equivalent, to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the state or country in which clinical practice will occur.
6. Current national or board certification by a nationally recognized credentialing organization as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN).
7. Letter of intent (LOI) to apply identifying experience with underserved populations including community service, awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements that impact healthcare along the U.S.-Mexico border, and current teaching in a Texas nursing program.
8. Current resume or curriculum vita.
9. A personal goal statement congruent with program goals.
10. Three letters of references attesting to the applicant's academic ability and potential, including one from a professional colleague.
11. Completion of personal interview.

DNP Application Deadlines

Applications to the program are due in the spring for admission the following fall. Interested applicants apply online through the Graduate School website (<https://www.utep.edu/graduate/>) and send official transcripts for all schools attended directly to the Graduate School. For most current application deadline dates visit <https://www.utep.edu/nursing/academic-programs/graduate/doctoral/doctor-of-nursing-practice.html>

Clinical Clearance Requirements for DNP Program

DNP students must meet administrative and clinical clearance requirements. These requirements are completion of background checks and drug screen and proof of health insurance. Note: Failure to comply with these requirements by the deadline will result in registration holds or being dropped from courses.

Advisement

All DNP students are continually advised throughout the program. The DNP Program Coordinator serves as the initial advisor for all newly admitted DNP students.

Transfer Students

The DNP council will consider each transfer student's application individually.

Probationary Status

A student whose GPA falls below 3.0 is at risk of dismissal from the program. In this case, the advisor reviews the student's academic record and makes a recommendation to the DNP council to retain the student on probationary status or to dismiss. The DNP council votes on the recommendation.

Other Consideration

The CON strongly encourages APRNs who teach or plan to teach nursing or who reside/work or plan to reside/work in rural or medically underserved areas to apply for admission.

Accommodation Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodation, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodation that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

DNP Grading Policy

The grading system for the DNP program is based on a letter grade system. The criteria for determining grades and course requirements are described in each course syllabus:

Grading Scale

A= 100-90

B= 89-80

C= 79-70

D= 69-60

F= Below 60

Students must earn a "B" or higher to pass a course. If a grade below "B" is attained in any course, the student will need to retake the course the next time it is offered, prior to continuing in the program. If the student does not achieve a "B" or higher upon the next attempt, they will be ineligible to continue and will be dismissed from the program.

DNP Students must maintain a 3.0 (B) cumulative average. The student will be placed on academic probation if overall GPA falls below 3.0. Students must raise their GPA to 3.0 or above in required courses during the next semester of enrollment. A DNP student may be placed on probation for a maximum of two terms and remain in the DNP program. Students exceeding these limits will be withdrawn from the program.

The symbol of "I" (Incomplete) is reported when the student has not completed all the assignments for the course. The incomplete is valid for up to one year. To receive an incomplete, a student must submit a request for an incomplete status to the DNP program director and course faculty prior to the last day of the course. Failure to convert an incomplete prior to the agreed upon time frame will result in the student receiving an "F" in the course.

DNP Graduation Requirements:

The following outlines requirements for eligibility to graduate:

- ✓ Complete the required courses as outlined in the DNP degree plan
- ✓ Earn a “B” or higher in all required courses
- ✓ Complete an approved DNP project, dissemination and submission of DNP portfolio according to the established timeline
- ✓ Apply for graduation prior to the deadline
- ✓ Be enrolled during the term of graduation
- ✓ Pay all required graduation fees
- ✓ Complete the DNP curriculum

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Plan

Year 1					
Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Summer Semester	
Course Title	SCH	Course Title	SCH	Course Title	SCH
N 6310 Scholarly Foundations for DNP (3-0-0)	3	NURS 6319 Appli Stats Health Providers (3-0)	3	N6370 Epidemiology for Border Populations (3-0-0)	3
N6200 Project Planning & Development (2-0-0)	2	N6338 Advanced Health Policy &	3	N6360 Translating Research to Practice (3- 0-0)	3
N6190 DNP Project I (1-00)	1	N6320 Health Information Systems/Technology (3-0-0)	3	N6380 Advanced Diagnostics (2-0- 1) (60 clinical hours)	3
N6330 Organization & Systems Leadership (3-0-0)	3	N6191 DNP Project II (1-0-0)	1		
Total Semester SCH	9	10		9	
Year 2					
Fall Semester		Spring Semester			
N6340 Advanced Seminar in Clinical Genetics (3-0-0)	3	N6893 DNP Project Practicum (2-0-6) (360 practicum hours)	8		
N6470 Chronic Illness & the Border (3-0-1) (60 clinical hours)	4				
N6292 DNP Project III (1-0-1) (60 clinical hours)	2				
Total Semester SCH	9	8			
Total DNP Program Credit Hours = 45 credits					
Total DNP Program Clinical Hours = 540					

Fall 2026

Doctor of Nursing Practice Required Courses

Doctor of Nursing Practice (All courses require a grade of B or better)

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6190	DNP Project I	1
NURS 6191	DNP Project II	1
NURS 6200	Project Planning and Dev	2
NURS 6292	DNP Project III	2
NURS 6310	Scholarly Foundations for DNP	3
NURS 6320	Health Info Systems/Tech	3
NURS 6330	Org & Systems Leadership	3
NURS 6338	Adv. Health Policy & Bioethics	3
NURS 6340	Adv. Seminar in Clinical Genetics	3
NURS 6360	Translating Research to Pract	3
NURS 6370	Epidemiology for Border Populations	3
NURS 6380	Advanced Diagnostics	3
NURS 6470	Chronic Illness & the Border	4
NURS 6893	DNP Project Practicum	8
NURS 6319	Appli Stats Health Providers	3
Total credit hours:		45

Foundation Courses

The foundation core consists of five courses (14 credit hours) that provide the groundwork for clinical practice at the doctoral level. Topics include theoretical and scientific underpinnings of doctoral level nursing practice, organizational and systems leadership, information systems/ technology and advocacy in healthcare for quality improvement and transformation of health policy as needed for evolving clinical practice.

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6310	Scholarly Foundations for DNP	3
NURS 6338	Adv. Health Policy & Bioethics	3
NURS 6320	Health Info Systems/Tech	3
NURS 6330	Org & Systems Leadership	3
NURS 6200	Project Planning and Dev	2
Total credit hours:		14

Doctoral Practice Core

The doctoral practice core consists of four courses (12 credits) that enable the DNP graduate to analyze the role of genomics/genetics along with epidemiological, biostatistical, occupational, and environmental data in the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical prevention (health promotion and risk reduction/illness prevention for individuals and families) and population health programs.

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6370	Epidemiology Border Population	3
NURS 6340	Adv. Seminar Clinical Genetics	3
NURS 6380	Advanced Diagnostics	3
NURS 6360	Translating Research to Pract	3
Total credit hours:		12

DNP Clinical Core

The clinical core includes one course (4 hours) that prepare the DNP graduate to generate evidence through practice that will guide improvement and outcomes of care in the management of chronic illnesses commonly seen in U.S.-Mexico border populations.

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6470	Chronic Illness & the Border (90 hours of practicum experience)	4
Total credit hours:		4

DNP Project and Practicum

The project practicum consists of one 8 credit course, and the DNP project courses consist of three courses totaling 4 credits. This experience allows the DNP student to demonstrate integration of theoretical and clinical knowledge to meet the needs of specific populations.

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6190	DNP Project I	1
NURS 6191	DNP Project II	1
NURS 6292	DNP Project III	2
NURS 6893	DNP Project Practicum	8
Total credit hours:		12

Supplemental DNP Courses

The supplemental DNP courses include a special topics theory course (3 credits) to be used as needed to satisfy degree requirements. The independent study courses (1 or 2 credits) allow the DNP student to fulfill the 1000 total practicum hours required for the DNP degree.

Course List

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 6395	Sp Top in Advanced Nursing	3
NURS 6197	Ind Study in Adv Nursing Pract	1
NURS 6298	Ind Study in Adv Nursing Pract	2
Total credit hours:		6

DNP Project

Learning culminates with the completion of an evidence-based synthesis project. The student must initiate the project with project chairperson approval by the fourth semester of the program. Students complete the DNP project during the practicum experience. With input and guidance from the chairperson, students disseminate results through scholarly poster and/or podium presentations. The completed project and all scholarly deliverables become part of the portfolio.

DNP Portfolio

Starting with their first doctoral level course and culminating in the completion of the evidence-based DNP project, students prepare and refine the portfolio throughout their educational preparation. The portfolio demonstrates mastery of DNP competencies in all domains. During the last semester of study, a student's project chairperson will review the quality of the portfolio for scholarship and evidence of mastery of competencies.

The portfolio is designed to:

- ✓ Document and measure qualitative and quantitative characteristics of practicum encounters and other learning experiences throughout practicum.
- ✓ Evaluate competency in all domains of doctoral level practice.
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership in evidence-based practice and the ability to generate evidence through practice that will guide improvements in practice and outcomes of care in the management of chronic illnesses.
- ✓ Demonstrate scholarship through dissemination of clinical scholarship.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees are set by the university and approved by The University of Texas System Board of Regents. See the [Student Business Service's](#) Tuition and Fees Schedule for the most accurate information.

Pursuant to state law, The University of Texas System Board of Regents (the Board) is authorized to set tuition. Tuition and fees are subject to change by legislative or regent action and become effective on the date enacted. The Texas Legislature does not set a specific amount for any student fee. The student fees assessed are authorized by state statute; however, the specific fee amounts and the determination to increase fees are made by UTEP administration and The University of Texas System Board of Regents. The Board will consider proposed tuition and fee increases at an upcoming meeting. The tuition rates for this academic year will be set after the Board meets. The student's estimated tuition bill will be available at that time. The student's actual tuition bill will be distributed in July of this year. Registration will not be completed until tuition has been paid. Policies governing payment or refund of tuition, fees and other charges are approved by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and comply with applicable state statutes.

UTEP now offers two tuition rate plans:

- Traditional Rate Plan
- Guaranteed Rate Plan (Optional - students must opt-in)

For more information about these plans and the current Tuition and Fee schedules, please visit the Student Business Services website: <http://sbs.utep.edu>. For additional information, please contact the Student Business Services Office at (915) 747-5116.

MINER GOLD CARD

The Miner Gold card is the official identification (ID) card of the University of Texas at El Paso. The Miner Gold card is the property of the University and is non-transferable. All students must always carry their Miner Gold card while on university property to obtain services.

The Miner Gold card is issued to all students who are enrolled in at least one credit hour. A current photo ID (e.g., driver's license, state ID, or passport) must be presented before a Miner Gold card is issued. The Miner Gold card remains active if the student is enrolled in courses at UTEP. No article of clothing or accessory including a hat or sunglasses can be worn on the student's head when the ID card photograph is taken.

All first-time students will be assessed a one-time, non-refundable \$10.00 fee for the ID card. Any card rendered unusable, damaged, lost, or stolen will be assessed a \$20.00 fee. A new photo will be taken every time a card is re-issued.

Various debit-declining balance plans can be utilized by Miner Gold card holders. Enrollment in these plans is automatic: participation is optional.

The University reserves the right to modify or change any or all parts of the Miner Gold card at any time. The Miner Gold card must be surrendered to university officials upon request.

For more information:

Miner Gold Card Office

Academic Services Building, Room 116

915.747.7334

www.utep.edu/minergold

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Nursing courses are delivered in fall, spring and summer in 15-week terms

Numbers in parentheses following course titles are based on full 15-week semesters and are to be interpreted as follows:

First digit= number of didactic contact hours averaged per week

Second digit= number of on-campus laboratory contact hours average per week

Third digit=number of off-campus practicum contact hours averaged per week

DNP Course Descriptions and Objectives

NURS 6190 DNP Project I

Course Description: This course focuses on the overall components of the individual students' completed capstone project development. It includes writing for publication and preliminary development of the plan and methodology (1-0-0)

Course Objectives:

Analyze components necessary for individual students' successful project design, development, implementation, and decimation.

NURS 6191 DNP Project II

Course Description: This course continues to focus on development of the individual student's capstone project, including refinement of the plan and methodology (1-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Design students' individual quality improvement project proposal.

NURS 6200 Project Planning and Development

Course Description: The course will address all aspects of project planning and development as a preliminary step to the students' selection of a topic or phenomenon of interest for the doctoral synthesis project that will incorporate well-built questions, search strategies and outcomes, identification of resources needed, plan for evaluation and dissemination (2-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate ability to develop a brief total project plan.
2. Utilize structured system to evaluate and synthesis search

NURS 6292 DNP Project III

Course Description: This course continues to focus on the development and implementation of the components of the capstone project. Includes 90 clock hours of practicum experience (0-0-2)

Course Objectives:

1. Begin implementation of individual project.

NURS 6310 Scholarly Foundations for DNP

Course Description: This foundational course focuses on analyzing DNP competencies, roles & scholarship within the clinical practice doctorate. The theoretical basis for practice, including nursing and related theories, is explored and the major concepts of evidence-based practice for individuals and populations, leadership, inquiry, innovation/change, interprofessional collaboration/teams, and evaluation are critically analyzed as fundamental components of DNP practice. Health informatics as an integral component of evidence-based practice is discussed. Practice inquiry is analyzed to guide science-based practice (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze the competencies, roles, and scholarship within the clinical practice doctorate.
2. Examine nursing and related theories within the context of evidence-based practice.
3. Explore the ethical, biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for doctoral nursing practice.
4. Develop and evaluates new practice approaches based on evidence-based theories from nursing and other disciplines.

NURS 6319 Applied Stats Health Providers

Course Description: Applied Statistics for Health Providers: This course provides an overview of the logic and appropriate use of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques most commonly reported in the research literature of health professions. Topics include hypothesis testing, statistical power and effect size, and a review of parametric and nonparametric procedures. Across topics, emphasis is placed on 1) the underlying logic of statistical assumptions, approaches, and procedures, 2) interpretation of research findings and implications for practice, and 3) evaluation and critical appraisal of published research (3-0-0)

1. Analyze different statistical techniques for use in clinical practice.
2. Apply principles of evidence-based practice in evaluation research questions, research design, clinical interventions, and research findings.
3. Critically evaluate published research and apply to clinical practice.
4. Develop and evaluate new practice approaches based on evidence-based theories from nursing and other disciplines.

NURS 6320 Health Information Systems/Tech

Course Description: The course covers informatics in health care delivery and is designed to be multi-disciplinary in nature and will provide a broad overview of the clinical aspects of information technology, focusing on hardware, software, and conceptual models of information. Exploration and evaluation of different data types and models, both discipline specific and interdisciplinary in nature, will be covered (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Select and evaluate programs that evaluate and monitor outcomes of care, care systems, and quality improvement.
2. Analyze and communicate critical elements necessary to the selection, use and evaluation of healthcare information systems and patient care technology.
3. Demonstrate the conceptual ability and technical skills to develop and execute an evaluation plan involving data extraction from practice information systems and databases.
4. Analyze ethical and legal issues within healthcare systems related to the use of information, information technology, communication networks, and patient care technology.

NURS 6330 Org & Systems Leadership

Course Description: The course focuses on the dynamic and complex health care system and imperatives to deliver quality health care through clinical initiatives based on evidence-based practice, industry standards, key outcome indicators, and cost-quality directives. Organizational change, innovations system leadership, organizational culture, business and finance, communications, marketing, models of performance improvement, and evaluation are addressed. The role of inter-professional practice and collaboration within teams is examined to analyze contributes to quality outcomes (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Employ systems thinking and principles of business, finance, and economics to develop and implement effective practice-level or system-wide initiatives that will improve the quality-of-care delivery.
2. Analyze the cost-effectiveness of practice initiatives accounting for risk and quality management.
3. Evaluate evidence-based care delivery approaches that meet current and future needs of patient populations.
4. Demonstrate sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and populations including patients and providers.

NURS 6338 Adv/Health Policy & Bioethics

Course Description: The course focuses on the ethical analysis of complex patient care dilemmas and use of an ethical framework in the analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of policies related to healthcare, financing, practice regulation, assessment, patient safety, quality, and efficacy. The policy process, both ideal and practical, will be examined. Examination of how health policy legislation is developed and evolves, including analysis of intended and unintended consequences and discussions of current health care paradigm, health care reforms, and current events and issues will be covered (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Critically analyzes health policy proposals, health policies, and related issues from the perspective of consumers, nursing, other health professions, and other stakeholders in policy and public forums.
2. Explore methods for the development, implementation, and evaluation of leadership strategies for healthcare policy that address issues of social justice and equity and which shape healthcare financing, regulation, and delivery.

NURS 6340 Adv/Seminar Clinical Genetics

Course Description: The focus of this course will be on human genetic and gene abnormalities and the incorporation of sequence-based health care within evidence-based practice. The course will incorporate new information from the Human Genome Project (HGP), as well as the history and evolution of genetic counseling and the ethical and legal issues that arise daily in these rapidly changing fields (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze emerging genetic and genomic data related to individual, small group, and population health.
2. Analyze emerging genetic and genomic data related to legal and ethical implications for society and healthcare delivery.
3. Synthesize concepts related to genetics and genomic, ethics psychosocial dimensions of health, and cultural diversity in developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions to address health disparities.

NURS 6360 Translating Research to Practice

Course Description: This course provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in evidence-based practice that will assist in moving clinical practice to an evidence-based foundation and provides the essential principles, skills, and tools of evidence-based nursing practice. Special emphasis will focus on formulating a question, searching/appraising the literature/evidence, and use of the best evidence. Methods of assessing results relative to interventions, harm, diagnosis, prognosis, and risk and differentiation between evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and research utilization will be presented (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Explore the application of evidence-based practice principles to the roles of the clinical nursing practice doctorate.
2. Formulate a clinically focused research question and searches and appraises to literature to determine
3. the evidence for best practice.
4. Designs a program to implement the delivery of the best research evidence to an existing clinical facility.

NURS 6370 Epidemiology Border Populations

Course Description: Use of current concepts of public health, evidence-based recommendations for health promotion and disease prevention, cultural and socioeconomic determinants of health, and cultural diversity and sensitivity to guide DNP practice. Participants will analyze epidemiological, biostatistical, occupational, and environment data to develop, implement, and evaluate clinical prevention and population health along the U.S.-Mexico border (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze epidemiological, biostatistical, environmental, and other appropriate scientific data related to individual, aggregate, and population health
2. Synthesize concepts related to clinical prevention and population health in developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions that promote health and prevent disease, improve access patterns, and address gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations.
3. Evaluate care delivery models and strategic concepts related to community, environmental, and occupational health, and cultural and socioeconomic dimensions of health.

NURS 6380 Advanced Diagnostics

Course Description: Focus is on managing complex healthcare problems along the border through the development of evidence-based diagnostic and clinical decision-making skills. Participants evaluate use of advanced diagnostic techniques in terms of best evidence, client values/beliefs, available resources, and clinical expertise (3-0-0)

Course Objectives:

1. Critically appraise existing literature and other evidence to determine and implement the best evidence for diagnostics and clinical decision-making skills related to healthcare
2. Synthesis evidence-based practice guidelines for diagnosis of complex health problems common to U.S.- Mexico border populations.

NURS 6470 Chronic Illness & the Border

Course Description: Students with guidance/mentoring by DNP faculty & community mentors, will synthesize, integrate, and translate knowledge/skills into evidence-based management of health disparities common to U.S.-Mexico border populations. Focus will be on aging population along the border or complex, chronic health needs of individuals of any age with mental illness, chronic pain, diabetes, hypertension, pulmonary conditions, or infectious disease and the coordination of care across settings. Seminars will guide the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating therapeutic, cost-effective interventions for a culturally diverse population. Includes 90 clock hours of practicum experience (2-0-2)

Course Objectives:

1. Employ effective communication and collaborative skills in the development and implementation of practice models, peer review, practice guidelines, health policy, standards of care, and other scholarly products related to health disparities along the U.S.-Mexico border.
2. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve outcomes for individuals residing along the U.S.-Mexico border.
3. Use conceptual and analytical skills in evaluating the links among practice, organizational, population, fiscal, and policy issues.

NURS 6893 DNP Project Practicum

Course Description: This is the culminating clinical practicum course designated to provide participants with the opportunity to synthesize and integrate the knowledge they have acquired in advanced practice settings. In consultation with faculty and community mentors, students will select an area of clinical practice and implement advanced clinical decision-making in the provision of culturally appropriate, patient-centered, and evidence-based care. Students will develop case presentations from their experiences. Includes 360 clock hours of practicum experience (0-0-8)

Course Objectives:

1. Develop and sustain therapeutic relationships and partnerships with identified stakeholders to facilitate positive healthcare outcomes over the continuum of care.
2. Critically analyze implemented evidence-based project plan and project outcomes to identify future recommendations for improvement of healthcare.
3. Disseminate project findings to stakeholders, external audiences, and internal audiences (i.e.-university). . Complete D.N.P. project.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO COLLEGE OF NURSING POLICIES

The University of Texas at El Paso- College of Nursing Ethical and Responsible Use of Social Media Technologies

The College of Nursing's Social Media Standards are in alignment with the University of Texas at El Paso Social Media Standards.

The University of Texas at El Paso Social Media Standards can be accessed at:

<https://admin.utep.edu/Portals/1805/PDF/UTEP%20Social%20Media%20Standards.pdf>

The College of Nursing recognizes that social networks and other electronic media can be beneficial to the delivery of quality healthcare. However, inappropriate use of electronic media such as social networks, chat rooms, forums, etc., violate a patient's rights to confidentiality and privacy. It may also cross the professional boundary between a student and his/her patient. Therefore, the College of Nursing has adopted the following guidelines to minimize the risks associated with use of social networks and all other electronic media.

First and foremost, any undergraduate and graduate student enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing must recognize that they have an ethical and legal obligation to maintain patient privacy and confidentiality at all times.

- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing must not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient information.
 - Do not identify patients by name or post or publish information that may lead to the identification of a patient.
 - It is not acceptable to post any information about a patient even if their name is not identified.
- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing must observe ethically prescribed professional patient—nurse boundaries.
 - Like in-person relationships, the student nurse has the obligation to establish, communicate and enforce professional boundaries with patients in the online environment.
 - Use caution when having online social contact with patients or former patients.
 - Online contact with patients or former patients blurs the distinction between a professional and personal relationship.
 - The fact that a patient may initiate contact with the student nurse does not permit the student nurse to engage in a personal relationship with the patient.
- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing should understand that patients, colleagues, institutions, and employers may view postings.

- Do not share, post or otherwise disseminate any information, including images, about a patient or information gained in the student nurse-patient relationship with anyone unless there is a patient care related need to disclose the information or other legal obligation to do so.
- Do not take photos or videos of patients on personal devices, including cell phones. Follow facility policies for taking photographs or video of patients for treatment or other legitimate purposes using employer-provided devices (i. e. wound photos).
 - Students are strictly prohibited from transmitting by way of any electronic media any patient- related image.
 - No photos or videos of patients may be taken on a personal device, including cell phones.
 - In addition, students are restricted from transmitting any information that may be reasonably anticipated to violate patient rights to confidentiality or privacy or otherwise degrade or embarrass the patient.
- Nurses should take advantage of privacy settings and seek to separate personal and professional information online.
 - However, limiting access to postings through privacy settings is not sufficient to ensure privacy.
- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing should not make disparaging remarks about patients, instructors, other students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing or clinical partner facilities, even if they are not expressly identified. Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing should not make threatening, harassing, sexually explicit, or derogatory statements regarding any person's race, ethnicity, gender, age, citizenship, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs, political views, or educational choices.
- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing have a responsibility to promptly report an identified breach of confidentiality or privacy to a school authority—including, but not limited to, an instructor, staff person, or dean.
- Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing must practice and behave in a manner that protects clients by exercising reasonable judgment when using social media technologies whether in their personal life or in their professional life. Inappropriate use of Electronic/Social Media can lead to disciplinary action including but not limited to formal reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the program which is contingent upon the nature of the infraction. Students enrolled in the UTEP College of Nursing can also be held personally liable. Such violations may result in civil and criminal penalties including fines or possible jail time in accordance with state and federal la

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Approved: 11/12/2018

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
College of Nursing
Filing a Student Complaint Policy

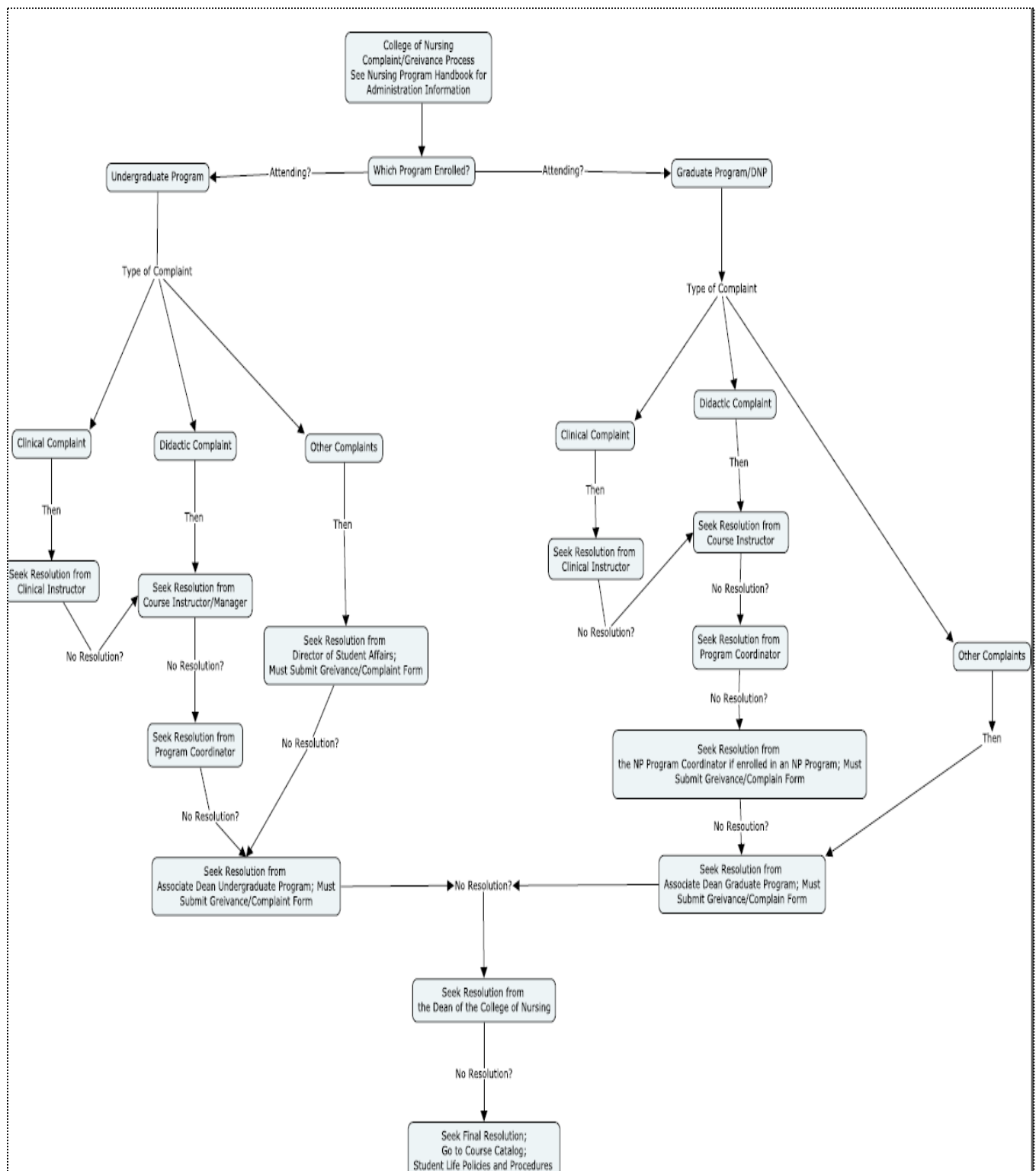
In order for the College of Nursing to initiate an investigation of a student complaint, the following must be true:

1. The student must be (or have been) enrolled in Phases 2 or 3 of the undergraduate nursing program, the graduate nursing program, or the Doctor of Nursing Practice program;
2. The complaint must be in writing and submitted electronically to the appropriate Assistant Dean of the College of Nursing;
3. The student must have exhausted all available grievance procedures established by the College of Nursing;
4. The student did not receive satisfactory resolution;
5. The student has submitted the complaint to the College of Nursing using the College Of Nursing's Student Complaint Form;
6. The student complaint contains detailed description of the claim, including dates, times, and full names of all involved, as well as the actions taken by both the student and the College of Nursing to resolve the matter;
7. The student has signed the form attesting to the truth and accuracy of the complaint;
8. The student recognizes that the College of Nursing will not investigate anonymous complaints and that by signing the form, the student acknowledges that the College of Nursing may share the information provided with the University in order to help resolve the dispute. The College of Nursing does not guarantee a resolution from this submission or its investigation into the allegation.

The student complaint must be received within one calendar year of the occurrence. Upon receiving a student complaint, the College of Nursing will facilitate an investigation if the matter being disputed falls within its jurisdiction. If the complaint is outside of the School of Nursing's jurisdiction, it may be directed to another department on campus that is authorized to address the concerns, if appropriate.

The College of Nursing may contact the student to submit further details or documented evidence of the allegation(s). Student should not submit original documents as they may not be returned. Student complaints will be examined to determine factual basis.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, investigation and facilitation could require several weeks to months to complete.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
College of Nursing
Student Complaint Form

Student Information

Full Name _____ Student ID# _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ Date: _____

College Information

Name of Program _____

Program Start Date _____ Program End Date _____

Degree Level (Check) ☐ Baccalaureate ☐ Master ☐ DNPCurrent Status (check) ☐ Attending ☐ Graduated ☐ Dismissed ☐ Withdrawn

Last Date of Attendance: _____

Complaint Information: Please provide a detailed explanation of your complaint and what steps, if any, you have taken to resolve the complaint. Attach additional page, if necessary, along with legible copies of relevant documentation. Indicate how you would like to see your complaint resolved.

Date of Occurrence: _____

Did you follow the College of Nursing's grievance procedures to resolve the complaint? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Whom did you contact? _____

Signature_____
Date

DNP PROGRAM ATTENDANCE AND DROPS

Attendance and participation in all planned learning activities is critical to the achievement of course objectives and student learning. The DNP students are required to attend all scheduled face-to-face on campus classes. See specifics on class attendance in course syllabi.

Schedules: Orientation and course schedules are provided to the student well in advance of the beginning of each semester. Students are expected to plan their personal and work schedules to attend.

Class Attendance: On-campus meetings in the DNP program are scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays up to a full day each time; each class day accounts for a large percentage of the final course grade.

Orientation: The orientation to the DNP program is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive overview of the curriculum, DNP education, policies and procedures, technology, resources, and school. Attendance at all days of the orientation is mandatory.

Major Emergency: If a student will be absent from class due to an emergency, such as serious personal or family illness or death, he/she must notify the course faculty before the scheduled class. Excused absences will be at the discretion of the course faculty. If a student is provided with an excused absence, the student is responsible for the course work missed

DNP COURSE DROPS

DNP students must talk to the DNP program director before dropping any course to make sure that it will not negatively affect your degree progress. Students can drop individual courses or completely withdraw from the University as described below. Refer to the online [Academic Calendar](#) to identify the dates during which adds, drops, withdrawals, and pass/fail registration changes can occur. Students can drop courses through their Goldmine account before classes begin or up until the last day of late registration of the long semester.

Students can also drop courses by submitting an Add/Drop Form to Registration and Records office located at Mike Loya Building Room #107 by census day. If it is after census and before the course drop deadline, a Course Drop Form would be submitted to our office for processing. Drops that occur before census day will not earn a grade.

Students who cannot drop in person can send an e-mail using their UTEP e-mail account to records@utep.edu. The email must include the name, UTEP Student ID number, course information, and reason for withdrawal.

PRACTICUM HOURS OBTAINED IN THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PROGRAM

The DNP student must complete 1000 hours of supervised post-baccalaureate practice as a requirement for being awarded a DNP. A review of completed practice hours will be conducted and verified before a student is approved for graduation.

Practicum hours obtained while enrolled in the post-master's DNP program. There are 540 practicum hours included in the post-master's DNP program. If a student does not have documented evidence of a minimum of 500 hours in their master's program, the student will be required to complete additional hours during the DNP program to make up the deficit hours and meet the requirements for the DNP degree and graduation. Additional hours required to fill the gap, achieve student learning outcomes, and meet program practicum hour requirements will be completed prior to completing the DNP program. The goals of the additional practicum experiences will be in accordance with the DNP Essentials and include specific pre-approved learning objectives. Practicum experiences for students in the post-master's DNP program may include a variety of experiences, depending upon the associated objectives.

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

UTEP Easy Pay Installment Plan

Tuition can also be paid via the UTEP Easy Pay Installment Plan. To use the UTEP Easy Pay Installment Plan, contact the UTEP Student Business Services. The UTEP Easy Pay Installment Plan **allows students to pay 20% of the tuition and fees** at the beginning of the semester. The remainder is billed in four equal monthly payments. **There is a convenience fee.**

Emergency Tuition Loan

An Emergency Tuition Loan can be requested via the UTEP Student Business Services. The Emergency Tuition Loan can be used for academic-related expenses. Payments are due in four (4) installments of 20% each, each month of the long semester starting on September or February, respectively. To be eligible for the Emergency Tuition Loan, a student must be enrolled for the current term, with no past due balances. Current tuition and fees, parking decal, health insurance, and meal plan that are assessed at the time of enrollment are included in this option. <https://loans.utep.edu>. **There is a convenience fee and an interest rate calculated. The amount of the loan is equal to 20% of the total tuition and fees charged**, as well as parking decal, health insurance, and meal plan (which is paid separately). For more information contact the UTEP Student Business Services.

Transfer of Credit

Except for shared/co-operative programs, the majority of credit for a graduate degree must be taken at the University. For a master's degree, up to fourteen (14) semester hours of graduate work can be transferred from another accredited institution with the approval of the program. Doctoral students are advised to consult their respective doctoral program for information on transfer of credit. All coursework transferred from other accredited institutions requires both the approval of the committee on graduate studies in the student's major area and the Dean of the Graduate School. When such transfer is approved, the student must still meet the residence requirements of two full semesters or the equivalent, and coursework must fall within the six-year time period.

- Only credit hours transfer; grade points earned at other institutions do not transfer.
- Only graduate-level courses can be transferred for credit.
- Only earned credit hours transfer; institutional grade point average does not transfer.
- Courses used to fulfill other degree requirements cannot be transferred.

- Courses for which a grade of C or lower was earned cannot be transferred.
- Correspondence courses are not accepted for graduate credit.

All documents submitted to the University for transfer purposes become part of the official files of the University and cannot be released or returned to the student or to another institution.

UTEP POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty members insist on adherence to these standards.

Scholastic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

FERPA Policy Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at El Paso to protect the privacy and records access rights that apply to records maintained by or for the University about its current and former students of its institutions by complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) at all times. For more information regarding your rights under FERPA, please see <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/>

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

The University is committed to providing equal opportunity to all employees and individuals seeking employment or access to its programs, facilities or services, and will not discriminate against these persons on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, genetic information, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The full policy can be viewed at the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. To file a complaint, please follow the procedure outlined in the handbook <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy Statement

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with

Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148 or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodation for students with disabilities.

Sexual Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policy Statement

The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to maintaining a learning and working Ac that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. As stated in the definition, sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence and/or dating violence. Individuals who engage in sexual misconduct and other inappropriate sexual conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

For a full description of the policy please see the <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/>. To file a complaint or report a violation, please follow the outlined procedures at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/standards/report/>.

Concealed Handguns & Weapons Policy

Pursuant to Subchapter H, Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code, individuals licensed by the State to carry a concealed handgun (License Holder) may carry a concealed handgun in approved areas on the University Campus beginning August 1, 2016.

The use, possession, display or storage of all other weapons, simulated weapons, explosives, or fireworks on the University Campus is prohibited and subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or criminal sanctions. 10.1.3 individuals who observe a violation of this policy are required to report the incident immediately to the University Police Department (UTEPPD) at 915-747-5611 or 911. UTEPPD will investigate the incident and when applicable forward potential violations to the University's Office of Human Resources or Office of Community Standards. For the full policy, please see the [UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures](#), Section IX, Chapter 10 Concealed Handguns and Weapons Policy <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-9/ch-10.html>

For additional current policies, please see:

The University of Texas at El Paso Graduate & Professional Catalog at <http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/>.
The University of Texas System at <http://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO STUDENT RESOURCES

RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. For a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html

Lactation Room Policy

The University of Texas at El Paso recognizes the importance and benefits of breastfeeding. We believe in providing a place on campus for nursing mothers to express milk or nurse their child in a private, comfortable and quiet space. In support, the University has created convenient

locations on campus to provide University employees and students the opportunity to maintain this benefit relationship for mom and baby. Access to the rooms must be requested at <https://www.utep.edu/human-resources/services/general%20services/lactation-locations.html>.

Lactation Room Locations

- Union Building East - Bhutan Lounge
- College of Health Sciences and Nursing Building, Room 400
- University Towers, Room 208
- Fox Fine Arts Center, Room M301
- UTEP Graduate Business Center, Suite 110