Welcome from the Dean

On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the PhD program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Nursing. We are very happy that you have chosen UNLV to continue your nursing education. At the UNLV School of Nursing, we pride ourselves on creating a warm and dynamic student-centered environment. Our motto is Nurse Leaders Start Here. You will find many opportunities here for professional growth and opportunities.

This handbook provides information needed to facilitate your progression in your program of study. While the primary responsibility for your success lies with each of you, many individuals stand ready to assist you in your efforts. If you have additional questions, contact your advisor who will be happy to help. You’ve made the right choice by choosing the UNLV School of Nursing. We’re here to help you advance your nursing career through discovery and scholarship. We really believe in you and are happy to be a part of your professional journey.

Best regards,

Angela Frederick Amar, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Welcome from the Doctoral Program Director

Congratulations! I am very excited to have you join us as a graduate student in our School of Nursing. I commend you for all the hard work and successes that you have achieved thus far in your nursing education and practice. You have now made a significant decision to pursue your PhD in Nursing and you have been selected through a competitive process. As such, I welcome you to this very important journey toward advancing your education.

The next semesters will be life-changing as you begin this new chapter in our profession. We provide our utmost support with faculty who are committed to your success. To assist as you begin, progress, and work toward completing your PhD, I highly encourage you to review all the information in this handbook. This will be your first point of reference with all the valuable information provided herein.

I look forward to working with you and I wish you all the best!

Jennifer Kawi, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE
Associate Professor and Doctoral Program Director
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the School of Nursing (SON) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). We look forward to working with you to achieve your academic and professional goals. This handbook is designed as a resource for information pertinent to the PhD in Nursing Program. The SON and/or the Graduate College may modify programs, policies, or procedures in the future. The UNLV SON reserves the right to change, without notice, any statement in this handbook, concerning but not limited to, curricula, course, faculty, tuition, fees, policies, practices, and rules. If course or curriculum changes take place after you commence the program, we will make every effort to implement the changes in your best interest.

It is the responsibility of the individual student to familiarize him/herself with the School of Nursing policies and to act in accordance with them. This handbook is a supplement to the Graduate College Catalog. Students must abide by the policies outlined in the Graduate College Catalog and overall university policies, particularly the code of student conduct and use of social media. In order to become familiar with the Graduate College Catalog, in addition to other tools and timelines to enrich your UNLV experience, refer to the Graduate College resources for current students current or at the official UNLV website.

Additional publications students will need and find helpful are listed below:


IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT E-MAIL

Please make sure you activate your Rebelmail account by going to: http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/. This email address is important for you to receive university-wide student announcements and also announcements from the SON Graduate Program.

The Graduate Program in the SON maintains a listserv that is available to doctoral students. We will add you to this listserv upon acceptance into the PhD program. Only official UNLV e-mail addresses (Rebelmail) will be used for communication per UNLV policy. Every student is given a Rebel e-mail address on official admission and enrollment at UNLV. You may forward all your Rebelmail messages to your preferred e-mail address if you have another e-mail account. However, it has been noted in the past that not all messages forward so we strongly encourage you to check your Rebelmail daily. Additionally, e-mail is the main vehicle used by the SON to provide students with vital information about scholarships, announcements, class information, etc. Also, faculty and administrators frequently use e-mail to communicate with students on issues pertinent to an individual student and will always use the student’s Rebelmail account.
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CHAPTER I
INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 453018
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-3018
Main telephone number: (702) 895-3011
School of Nursing: (702) 895-3360

Over 30,000 students attend classes at UNLV's 335-acre campus. Most students are Nevada residents; however, a lively mixture of international and out-of-state students add to the cosmopolitan quality of the campus.

UNLV is fully accredited by the Northwest Consortium of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and many academic programs have received further accreditation from independent national accrediting bodies. The School of Nursing is approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:
There are three 15-week trimesters - fall (early September to mid-December), spring (early January to late April), and summer (mid-May to late August) for all SON programs. Please note that the School of Nursing operates on a different calendar from the rest of the university.

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS:
Library: The Lied Library opened in summer 2000. It occupies 327,000 square feet in five stories. The library has 2,500 study spaces, more than half of them with full network connections. Laptops are available for in-library use and students may access the internet via wireless access. An Information Commons with microcomputer workstations; a Collaborative Learning Center offering electronic instructional rooms; 24 hour study space; media distribution system and retrieval system capable of storing 1.2 million volumes.

The Lied Library includes a Special Collections section that provides unique materials relating to Las Vegas and southern Nevada history. It also houses the Gaming Research Collection and the Nevada Women's Archives.

The Library offers access to information resources and databases available in electronic format. Services also include traditional reference and information assistance: individualized and classroom instructional sessions on subject-related resources and technologies: interlibrary loan and document delivery.

Book Store: The University Bookstore is conveniently located behind the Student Union. Rebel Books is located on Maryland Parkway across from the University. Both bookstores have the required and recommended textbooks available for purchase. Other merchandise available includes supplies required for courses, reference materials, emblematic souvenirs, insignia clothing, and a variety of sundry items. Both bookstores have
extended hours of operation during the first week of the semester. You can order your textbooks online through the University Bookstore or by calling (702) 895-3290.

**Alternate Method to Purchase Books:** Many students may not have easy physical access to the UNLV Bookstore. You can choose to purchase your textbooks online either from the UNLV Bookstore or from an online textbook company such as Amazon.

**Student Union:** The Student Union's primary concern is to cooperate with university groups to promote and coordinate a full range of programs and events, which add to the color and life of the campus environment. It also provides the various services, conveniences and amenities the members of the university community need in their daily life on campus. Serving as the central gathering place for the entire university community, the Student Union houses cafeteria and delicatessens, coffee bar, game rooms, a spacious theater, lounges, and meeting and program rooms. Offices of the Consolidated Student Government (CSUN) are located on the first floor. The campus newspaper is also in the Student Union.

**Graduate College Office:** This office is located on the 3rd floor of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building (FDH). This office receives the application forms and transcripts for admission to the graduate college. The Graduate College is responsible for tracking the admission, progression, and graduation of students. They deal with enrollment, registration problems, and provide the necessary forms graduate students need to submit as they progress through their degree programs.

**Office of the Registrar:** The Office of the Registrar can answer questions regarding residency requirements and is responsible for the processes of registration, withdrawals and recording graduation. The staff handles students' questions about their records and provides transcripts and enrollment certification documents. They are located in the Student Services Complex - Building C (702) 895-3443.

**Career Services:** The Career Services Center is designed to educate and assist students in all majors with the career planning and job search process. Services include resume writing, self-assessment resources, and videotaping equipment. They are located in the Student Services Complex - Building A, Room 201 (702) 895-3495.

**Disability Resource Center:** The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities that are otherwise qualified for university programs. To establish services, students need to provide to the Center appropriate documentation of their disability, from a recognized professional. The center is located in the Student Services Complex - Building A, Room 143 (702) 895-0866.

**Counseling:** Student Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free professional counseling in the areas of personal, social, and emotional concerns. Couples counseling, career development, drug and alcohol use assessment, and group counseling are also offered. These services, provided by clinical and counseling psychologists, are available to all currently enrolled students. The center is located in the Student Recreation & Wellness Center, Room 1500 (702) 895-3627.

**Student Health Center:** The Student Health Center offers services to registered and enrolled UNLV students. The Center staff includes nurse practitioners, physicians, registered nurses, and support personnel to provide essential health services. Services offered include health information and advice, treatment for minor illness and first aid, early detection and referral of chronic illnesses, pregnancy testing and contraception, sexually
transmitted disease screening and treatment, and evaluation of substance abuse. To obtain a full list of services, phone (702) 895-0630. A student health fee is charged to all students to defer some of the costs of services.

In accordance with state law, all admitted students must prove immunity to tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, and others that may be specified by the State Board of Health, prior to being permitted to register for classes. Meningitis vaccines are recommended. In addition, nursing students are required to demonstrate proof of Hepatitis B vaccinations, Varicella vaccination, and annual tuberculosis testing. All newly admitted students are required to complete the Admission Health Report Form prior to registration for classes. For further information contact the Student Health Center at (702) 895-0630.

All graduate nursing students are required to maintain and show proof of current health insurance, malpractice insurance, and current license as an RN.

Student Health Insurance: Is available to students enrolled in at least seven credits. This plan provides services beyond those available through the Student Health Center. Optional dependent insurance is also available. Claim form and brochures may be picked up in the Health Services Office or Cashier's Office prior to the beginning of each semester. For more information contact the Student Health Services at (702) 774-7119.

**Beginning Fall 2013, health insurance is mandatory for graduate students enrolled in 9 or more credits.

Veteran Services: The Veterans Administration recognizes the UNLV as a fully accredited institution of higher learning where qualified veterans, service persons, certain wives, widows and children may pursue their educational goals under the various chapters of the Veterans' regulations (G.I. Bill, etc.).

The Veteran Services office functions primarily for certification of enrollment status to the Veterans Administration. In addition, the office attempts to help veterans with questions about eligibility, specific problems, and education benefits. The office is located in the Student Services Complex Building A, Room 311 (702)895-2290.

Housing and Food Service: Dormitories provide on-campus housing for enrolled single students, or those living away from spouse /or children. The Office of Campus Housing is responsible for the development of a comprehensive housing and food service program. Applications for residency may be acquired by writing to Campus Housing, through the UNLV web site or by calling 702-359-0300. Applications are processed as they are received.

The Hazel M. Wilson Dining Commons serves dormitory residents and other university students. Students living off campus may purchase a meal card or may pay in cash for each meal in the Dining Commons.

Housing when coming to UNLV: For hotel accommodations for those who want to stay close to UNLV main campus, one of the closest hotels (about a 10 minute walk) is The Hyatt Place, 4520 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169, (702) 369-3366.
GENERAL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Students are responsible for knowing and observing the Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Members of the University Community (NSHE Code, Chapter 6). This code outlines the responsibilities of students, as well as the rules, sanctions and hearing procedures in effect on the campus. Any conflict between this code and the School of Nursing Handbook shall be interpreted in favor of the code. Printed copies of the code are available at the Division of Student Life.

Use of Automobiles: University parking and traffic regulations govern all vehicles operated on the campus, and violators are subject to a fine. The regulations are enforceable in the civil courts, as well as through the internal processes of the university. Each student must complete an automobile registration card and purchase a parking permit during registration. This permit will allow authorized users to park on campus in accordance with published parking regulations. Students should obtain a copy of the regulations booklet when applying for their permit. Stickers and information can be obtained from the University Police Office in the Claude Howard Public Safety Building at times other than the registration period as well. Students attending classes one-to-three times per semester can purchase day parking passes at the Claude Howard Public Safety Building.

Alcoholic Beverages: The storage, possession, and/or use of alcoholic beverages, is not allowed on the university campus or other university property unless prior approval is obtained in writing from the University President. The President will only grant this authorization upon being satisfied that proper supervision is provided in the dispensing of alcoholic beverages.

Change of Address: Any change of address should be reported immediately to MyUNLV and to the School of Nursing. Any correspondence from the university mailed to the last address provided by the student to MyUNLV will discharge all university responsibility for notification.

Use of University Facilities: University facilities including campus grounds are provided primarily for the support of the regular educational functions of the university and the activities necessary for the support of these functions. The university's functions take precedence over any other activities in the use of university facilities. Freedom to speak and to hear will be maintained for students, faculty and staff, and university policies and procedures will be used to provide a full and frank exchange of ideas. An invitation to speak at the university does not imply that the university endorses the philosophy or ideas presented by the speaker.

Any fund raising efforts by student organizations off campus must be cleared by the Dean of Student Services.

University facilities may not be used for the purpose of raising monies to aid projects not related to some authorized activity of the university or of university groups, and no efforts at conversion and solicitation by uninvited non-campus groups or individuals will be permitted on campus.

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.
The SON faculty reserves the right to have student papers analyzed by the internet service “Turnitin” for plagiarism. For more information about plagiarism please visit the Turnitin website. It is highly recommend that you take the short quiz after you view the short video.

If a student in a particular course is deemed by the instructor to be guilty of academic dishonesty, the student may be assigned a failing grade for the corresponding segment of the course. The instructor may also assign a failing grade for the entire course. In all cases, the instructor is responsible for recording the circumstances and for giving the student an opportunity to reply.

If any member of the university community is deemed guilty of academic dishonesty, any other member may bring action under the Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Members of the University Community. For further information contact the Office of Student Conduct at (702)895-2308.

**Copyright:** The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

**Disability Resource Center:** DRC determines accommodations that are “reasonable” in promoting the equal access of a student reporting a disability to the general UNLV learning experience. In so doing, the DRC also balances instructor and departmental interests in maintaining curricular standards so as to best achieve a fair evaluation standard amongst students being assisted. In order for the DRC to be effective it must be considered in the dialog between the faculty and the student who is requesting accommodations. For this reason faculty should only provide students course adjustment after having received this “Academic Accommodation Plan.” If faculty members have any questions regarding the DRC, they should call a DRC counselor.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651.

**Religious Holidays Policy:** Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day of late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could have been avoided.

**Tutoring:** The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times, and other academic resources. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 774-4623.

**UNLV Writing Center:** One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority. Appointments may be made in person or by calling.
895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment, and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation.

**Rebelmail:** By policy, faculty and staff should email students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ email prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu.

**ADA Accommodations:** For all faculty and staff (professional and classified) ADA accommodation determinations, please contact EEO/AA Compliance Office, located in Flora Dungan Humanities (FDH), Room 512, (702) 895-3656.

**Consensual Relationships:** UNLV prohibits romantic or sexual relationships between members of the university community when one of the individuals involved has direct professional influence or direct authority over the other.

**Final Examinations:** UNLV requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the class schedule.

**General Classroom Procedures:** Faculty members are expected to hold class meetings that are:
- Consistent with the course schedule. When faculty members must miss an occasional class (e.g., for professional meetings, due to sickness, or for the observance of a religious holiday), they are expected to reschedule that class meeting or to arrange for a replacement, or provide alternative instruction or assignments (see complete Missed Classes policy here);
- Maintain a predictable number of office hours which shall be posted and the faculty shall be available to students, colleagues, and others;
- Evaluate academic performance fairly;
- Counsel students;
- Carry through with their workload commitment in accordance with UNLV, college/school, and department/unit bylaws. Faculty members should have prior approval from their supervisor before missing/rescheduling classes and/or missing other scheduled duties, with the exception of emergencies;
- Continue their professional development; and
- Meet their obligations to the university community.

**Missed Class(es)/Student:** As a general rule, a student missing a class or laboratory assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration to be assured of this opportunity. Faculty may give students an additional week, but are encouraged to set a clear deadline.

NOTE: Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).
This policy shall not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university that could reasonably have been avoided.

There should be a good faith effort by both faculty and student to come to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy do arise, they can be appealed to the department chair/unit director, college/school dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: band, drama, intercollegiate athletics, recruitment, and any other activity sanctioned by a college/school Dean, and/or the Executive Vice President and Provost.

**Saturday Classes Holiday Schedule:** In general, if a holiday falls on a Monday, then Saturday classes meet. If a holiday falls on a Friday, then Saturday classes do not meet. To review the Faculty Senate policy detailing when Saturday classes are considered holidays, please see “Saturday Classes Holiday Policy” in the alphabetical listing.

**Teaching Evaluations:** In order to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching at UNLV, course evaluations are required to be administered at the end of each course. Teaching evaluations are a very important piece of assessment data and it is important that the reliability, validity, and legitimacy of these instruments be maintained. The minimum standards for administering these evaluations (Anonymity, Objectivity and Post-Evaluation Procedures) are outlined in the document “Minimum Standards for Teaching Evaluation by Students”. This document has been approved unanimously by the Academic Council of Deans and the Executive Vice President and Provost as reflecting the minimum standards that apply to all departments/schools/units when administering student evaluations of teaching.

**Equal Opportunity:** The UNLV is committed to and will provide quality equality of educational and employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, or political affiliation – except where sex, age, or ability represent bona fide educational or employment qualifications or where marital or veteran status are statutorily defined eligibility criteria for federal or state benefit programs. Further, the university seeks to promote campus diversity by enrolling and employing a larger number of minorities and women where these groups have historically been and continue to be under-represented within the university in relation to availability and may extend preference in initial employment to such individuals among substantially equally qualified candidates, as well as to veterans, Nevada residents, and current state employees seeking promotion. Inquiries concerning compliance with federal or state laws prohibiting such discrimination should be directed to the Office of Diversity Initiatives, FDH 560 (702) 895-5580.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is dedicated to the equality of educational opportunity, and the creation and maintenance of a campus environment free of barriers that discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Equality in access is achieved through reasonable classroom accommodations, and reasonable adaptation of examination and evaluation procedures. In the same vein, becoming an PhD student requires the completion of a professional education program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. The candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Reasonable accommodation does not mean that students with disabilities will be exempt from certain tasks. The following are academic tasks that applicants are expected to meet in order to participate in the School of Nursing programs and professional practice.
1. **Observation**
   The applicant must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in basic and applied sciences, as well as in didactic courses in nursing theory and practice. The applicant must be able to accurately observe a patient for the purpose of assessment, intervention and evaluation. Observation requires the use of judgment as well as the functional use of the senses of vision, audition, olfaction and palpation.

2. **Communication**
   An applicant must be able to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team.

3. **Motor**
   Applicants must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other evaluative procedures. An applicant must possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic or therapeutic procedures and be able to interpret appropriate examinations and procedures. Applicants should also be able to execute reasonable motor movements required to provide general or emergency treatment of patients.

4. **Conceptual Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**
   The applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize complex information. Problem solving is a critical skill demanded of nurses and requires all of the aforementioned intellectual abilities.

5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes**
   Applicants must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the assessment, intervention and evaluation of patients and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and coworkers. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical care of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills such as interest and motivation are all qualities which each applicant should possess.

**UNIVERSITY GRADING SCALE AND SYMBOLS**

Within the university system an instructor has the right to provide final grades utilizing either a 4-point scale (A through F) or a plus and minus system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Hold Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>Audit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revised July 2018
CHAPTER II

SCHOOL OF NURSING MISSION, PhD PHILOSOPHY, AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES

MISSION STATEMENT:
Our mission is to educate nurses at the undergraduate and graduate levels to meet health care needs in Nevada and beyond. The SON promotes, improves, and sustains human health through evidence-based education and advances in research and practice.

PhD in NURSING GOAL STATEMENT:
Our goal is to prepare PhD scholars to advance nursing science and practice through rigorous research, evidence-based education, and dynamic leadership.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) statement:
The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) represents the highest level of formal education for a career in research and the scholarship of discovery. It prepares scholars for the expression and communication of the knowledge base in the profession. The PhD graduate develops the science, stewards the profession, educates the next generation of nurses, defines its uniqueness, and maintains its professional integrity.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PhD IN NURSING PROGRAM:
The program of study builds on the premise that students learn best when faculty model and exemplify what is taught. Faculty and students collaboratively seek to demonstrate the creativity and flexibility inherent in the teaching enterprise. We believe that all participants have unique abilities and values which collectively enrich the program.

A program wide commitment to mutual respect for diversity of talents, viewpoints, experiences, and abilities shape the interactions of the program and serve as a yardstick for success. Innovation as inherent to the process of education and embraced as a program cornerstone. We further believe that education can enhance the lives of faculty members, students, and patients served.

Modeling effective teaching requires faculty have a capacity to serve as participant and learner in the process of education. Conversely, the student serves not merely as a recipient, but as a collaborator in the educational process. Faculty members are responsible for creating the conditions for students to build competence and confidence in meeting program objectives. Students are responsible for their own learning: both choices made and consequences emergent from those choices.

Located in the State of Nevada, the program attempts to express the values of the citizens of the state: pragmatism, independence, and self-development. As graduates become leaders in nursing and healthcare, they impact quality of care delivery and healthcare systems. As nurse researchers/scholars, graduates contribute to the body of nursing knowledge benefiting the discipline, communities, families, and individuals. As educators, graduates enhance the competencies of the students they teach, and ultimately the quality of care provided by graduate nurses.

OUTCOMES OF THE PhD IN NURSING PROGRAM:
Individuals who complete the PhD in Nursing Program will be prepared for roles as leader, researcher/scholar, and educator in academia, the health care industry, or government and private organizations focused on health care.
Graduates will fulfill the following program outcomes:

• Provide leadership for the advancement of nursing as a scientific and practice discipline through the conduct of culturally competent scholarship and identification of implications for policy, discipline and the profession.
• Conduct and communicate original research that generates new knowledge.
• Discover, implement and evaluate innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

The UNLV SON PhD program is aligned with the AACN’s Task Force on Research-Focused Doctoral Education in Nursing. Students are encouraged to review the position paper found on the AACN website.

SCHOOL OF NURSING DEFINITION OF CIVILITY:
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Nursing defines civility by respecting others and honoring differences to provide a safe and supportive learning and work environment. Civility encompasses behaviors expected by the profession of nursing, which includes students, faculty, and staff members.
PHD IN NURSING, Nursing Education Option

SAMPLE COURSES OF STUDY FOR FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDY

(“Nursing Education” Option)

A. Sample Course of Study: Full-Time Student – Total (62 credits) Program

The following is a typical schedule for students enrolled in the program, assuming a full-time course load of 9 credits per semester and continuous enrollment throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term to be taken</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Knowledge Development in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 771</td>
<td>Theory Development in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 780</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 774</td>
<td><em>Educational Theory &amp; Philosophy for Nursing</em></td>
<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 775</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Nursing Research I: Univariate Methods</td>
<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 781</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 724</td>
<td><em>Developing &amp; Evaluating Curriculum for Nursing Education</em></td>
<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 776</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II: Multivariate Methods</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Writing a Research Grant Application</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 709</td>
<td><em>Teaching and Learning in Nursing Education</em></td>
<td>Year 2 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 785</td>
<td>Special Topics in Nursing Research</td>
<td>Year 2 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 710</td>
<td><em>Course Level Evaluation Strategies for Nurse Educators</em></td>
<td>Year 2 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 733</td>
<td><em>Nursing Education Practicum I</em></td>
<td>Year 2 – SP</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 789</td>
<td>Independent Study/Elective Course in Research</td>
<td>Year 2 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>The Nurse as Leader</td>
<td>Year 2 – SU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 790</td>
<td><em>Independent Teaching Practicum Seminar</em></td>
<td>Year 2 – SU</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 791</td>
<td><em>Independent Teaching Practicum</em></td>
<td>Year 2 – SU</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 797</td>
<td><em>Dissertation</em></td>
<td>Year 3 – FA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>minimum of 12 credits in dissertation are required,</em></td>
<td>Year 3 – SP</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>third semester only if required</strong></td>
<td>Year 3 – SU</td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Sample Course of Study: Full-Time Student – Total (50 credits) Program

Students who have completed master’s or post-master’s courses in nursing education (NURS 709, NURS 710, NURS 724, and NURS 733) at UNLV or equivalents prior to enrollment in the PhD in Nursing Program would follow a 50 credit plan of study.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Theory Development in Nursing</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 780</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 774</td>
<td>Educational Theory &amp; Philosophy for Nursing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 781</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing</td>
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<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>The Nurse as Leader</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 776</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II: Multivariate Methods</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Writing a Research Grant Application</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 785</td>
<td>Special Topics in Nursing Research</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 791</td>
<td>Independent Teaching Practicum</td>
<td>Year 2 – SP</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NURS 797 | Dissertation  
*minimum of 12 credits in dissertation are required  
**third semester only if required | Year 2 – SU  
Year 3 – FA  
Year 3 – SP | 6  
6  
**3 |

**TOTAL** 50
C. Sample Course of Study: Part-Time Student – Total (62 credits) Program

Since courses are offered only once a year, those students enrolling part-time would spread courses over three (3) to four (4) years prior to candidacy. The following is a typical part-time plan of study for these students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term to be taken</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
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<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 724</td>
<td>Developing &amp; Evaluating Curriculum for Nursing Education</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>The Nurse as Leader</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 797</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>**third semester only if required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4 – FA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4 – SP</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4 – SU</td>
<td>**3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 62**
D. Sample Course of Study: Part-Time Student – Total (50 credits) Program

Since courses are offered only once a year, those students enrolling part-time in the program’s 50 credit option would follow a comparable plan of study, but would spread this over three (3) to four (4) years of course work prior to candidacy. The following is a typical part-time plan of study for these students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term to be taken</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Knowledge Development in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 771</td>
<td>Theory Development in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 781</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing</td>
<td>Year 1 – SP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>The Nurse as Leader</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Special Topics in Nursing Research</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Independent Study/Elective Course in Research</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 776</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II: Multivariate</td>
<td>Year 2 – SU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Writing a Research Grant Application</td>
<td>Year 2 – SU</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 790</td>
<td><em>Independent Teaching Practicum Seminar</em></td>
<td>Year 3 – FA</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 791</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 797</td>
<td>Dissertation *minimum of 12 credits in dissertation are required *<em>third semester only if required</em></td>
<td>Year 3 – SP Year 3 – SU Year 4 – FA</td>
<td>6 6 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 50
A. Sample Course of Study: Full-Time Student

The following is a typical schedule for students enrolled in the program, assuming a full-time course load of 9 credits per semester and continuous enrollment throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Term to be taken</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<td>NURS 771</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Writing a Research Grant Application</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 789</td>
<td>Independent Study/Elective Course in Research</td>
<td>Year 1 – SU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 777</td>
<td>Individualized Study / Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>Year 2 – FA</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 785</td>
<td>Special Topics in Nursing Research</td>
<td>Year 2 – FA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 797</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Year 2 – SP Year 2 – SU Year 3 - FA</td>
<td>6 6 **3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*minimum of 12 credits in dissertation are required
**third semester only if required
B. Sample Course of Study: Part-Time Student

Since courses are offered only once a year, those students enrolling part-time would spread courses over three (3) to four (4) years prior to candidacy. The following is a typical part-time plan of study for these students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Term to be taken</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
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<td>NURS 780</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 45
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURS 709  Teaching and Learning in Nursing Education
Analyzes traditional and alternative teaching and learning concepts in the context of the role of nurse educator. Development of a personal philosophy of education and how it connects to teaching/learning expectations. Focus on development of self within the role of nurse educator. 3 Credits

NURS 710  Course Level Evaluation Strategies for Nurse Educator
Develops formative/process and summative/outcome evaluations for learning within classroom, clinical, and laboratory settings for use with students, patients or clinical staff. Attention to legal/ethical issues related to evaluation, including cultural bias and accommodation for students with disabilities. 3 Credits

NURS 724  Developing & Evaluating Curriculum for Nursing Education
Develop curriculum for educational programs within the context of academic or clinical settings. Design curriculum level evaluation of the program that is developed. Focus on connection to larger unit mission, program and level outcomes, use of evaluative theories to guide process and inclusion of stakeholders throughout. 4 Credits

NURS 733  Nursing Education Practicum I
Apply strategies and concepts of the nurse educator role in a practice setting of choice and within the context of clinical specialty area. 2 Credits

NURS 770  Knowledge Development in Nursing
This course offers a disciplinary context for doctoral study in nursing. The history and evolution of nursing knowledge is examined. Emphasis is on debates regarding what is known and how it is known. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 3 Credits

NURS 771  Theory Development in Nursing
This course focuses on theoretical frameworks that guide the development of nursing knowledge. The methods and processes of theory development are analyzed. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 3 Credits

NURS 772  The Nurse as Leader
This course focuses on leadership models as templates for the nurse leader. Factors that influence leadership will be explored. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 3 Credits

NURS 774  Educational Theory and Philosophy for Nursing
Explores traditional and contemporary philosophies and theories of education within the context of societal development. Examines the role of educational theory and philosophy within nursing education. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 3 Credits

NURS 775  Statistical Methods for Nursing Research I: Univariate Methods
Designed to provide students with skills necessary to understand, interpret, and conduct descriptive and univariate analysis relevant to the field of nursing. Students will gain practice experience examining real-world data sets using SPSS software. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program; successful completion of introductory graduate level statistics course. 3 Credits

NURS 776  Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II: Multivariate Methods
Focuses on multivariate methods useful for the field of nursing research. Students will be expected to complete a capstone project to explore and implement statistical methods likely to be part of their dissertation projects. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program; NURS 775 or equivalent. 3 Credits
NURS 777  Individualized Study/Dissertation Seminar
Individualized study or seminar to facilitate dissertation research. Prerequisite: Admission into doctoral program or permission of instructor. 1-5 credits

NURS 779  Writing a Research Grant Application
This course involves preparing and writing a research grant application. Students will learn how to prepare a research budget and budget justification; write a resources and environment section, a biosketch, and project timeline; and propose an innovative and significant research proposal. Prerequisite: NURS 780 or permission of instructor. 2 Credits

NURS 780  Quantitative Methods in Nursing
The course examines qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method approaches used in nursing research. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 3 Credits

NURS 781  Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing
Study of range of approaches to management of qualitative data; exploration of criteria for validity and reliability of outcomes. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program; NURS 780 or equivalent. 3 Credits

NURS 785  Special Topics in Nursing Research
Provides the student with an opportunity for an in-depth exploration of specific aspects of nursing research issues and approaches. Prerequisite: NURS 780 and enrollment in nursing doctoral program. 2-8 Credits

NURS 789  Independent Study
Supervised student designed study project done in consultation with instructor; must be submitted in writing to student advisor and Doctoral Director for approval. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program, NURS 770, NURS 771, NURS 772, NURS 780. 3-10 Credits

NURS 790  Independent Teaching Practicum Seminar
Taken concurrently with NURS 791, provides practical exploration in group setting of actual experiences and outcomes of independent teaching practicum; identifies options for enhanced personal performance as nurse educator. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program and NURS 724, NURS 733 or equivalents. 1 Credit

NURS 791  Independent Teaching Practicum
Integrate knowledge and competencies of nurse educator through application in independently taught undergraduate nursing course; systematic exploration of roles, responsibilities, and opportunities inherent in practice of nursing education. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program and NURS 724, NURS 733 or equivalents. 5 Credits

NURS 797  Dissertation
Research analysis and writing toward completion of dissertation and subsequent defense. Only 12 credits apply to program requirements. Enrollment must be continuous. S/F grading only. Prerequisite: enrollment in nursing doctoral program and successful completion of Comprehensive Examination. 3-6 Credits
CHAPTER III
PhD PROGRAM PROGRESSION

PROGRAM PROGRESSION:

1. **Credit Hours and Grade Point Average**
   For the “Nursing Education” Option, students who have completed NURS 709, NURS 710, NURS 724, and NURS 733 in either their master’s or post-master’s education at UNLV or have a master’s degree or post-master certificate in nursing education from another accredited institution are required to complete a minimum of 50 graduate credit hours. Students who have not completed NURS 709, 710, 724, and 733 or do not have a master’s degree or post-master’s certificate in nursing education, are required to complete a minimum of 62 graduate credits for the “Nursing Education” option. The DNP to PhD program requires a minimum of 45 credit hours. **A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained in all courses required for the PhD degree; no grade less than B is acceptable for curricular completion of the PhD in Nursing Program.** Each student, upon admission, will be assigned an advisor. The advisor (and later the Graduate Advisory Committee including the chair of the Graduate Advisory Committee if in place) will plan the student’s entire degree program of study and submit it to the Graduate College. The degree program requires the approvals of the student, advisor, the Doctoral Director, the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs, and the Graduate Dean.

2. **Progression and Policies**
   The SON policies align with the UNLV Graduate College policies and procedures. Students are encouraged to review the [Graduate College Catalogue](#) carefully.
   The Doctoral Director monitors the student’s progress through the program of study until a Graduate Advisory Committee Chair is appointed. In addition, the Doctoral Director will monitor adherence to all established [policies of the Graduate College](#). At any given time, the student can request a change of chair or members of the Graduate Advisory Committee. However, it is the student’s responsibility to secure approval of an individual faculty member who agrees to serve as his or her advisor before changing the original advisor, subject to Graduate College approval. Also, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that his or her chosen advisor or chair has current full graduate faculty status at UNLV. A list of full graduate faculty can be found [here](#).
   Consistent with current Graduate College policies, there is no mechanism in place at this time to “challenge” PhD degree courses either by exam or by portfolio of experiences.

3. **Comprehensive Examination**
   Students must take a Comprehensive Examination to assess his/her readiness to begin the doctoral dissertation. The Comprehensive Examination has written and oral components and occurs during the final semester of required doctoral coursework preceding enrollment in Dissertation (NURS 797). The Comprehensive Examination may be repeated only once. The re-examination must occur between 3-6 months from the date of the initial examination. A student who does not pass the exam on the initial attempt will be placed on probation. If the student fails the second attempt of the written, oral, or both components, the student will be separated from the PhD program. Refer to the section on the Comprehensive Examination for information regarding the specific policy and procedures.
4. **Dissertation Prospectus**

Upon successfully completing the Comprehensive Examination, the student submits a dissertation prospectus to his/her Graduate Advisory Committee for approval. Once the prospectus is approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee, the student submits a “Prospectus Approval Form” to the Graduate College. Upon completion of these requirements, the student achieves candidacy and can register for dissertation credits and begin development of his or her dissertation research proposal. After the committee approves the proposal and IRB approval is obtained, the student begins the data collection phase of his or her dissertation research. The student’s dissertation chair and the Advisory Committee are responsible for the student’s progression through the dissertation.

5. **Culminating Experience**

Upon completion of the dissertation, the student must pass a final oral examination which involves the successful defense of his/her dissertation study. All Advisory Committee members must be present for this examination and may question the student following presentation of the study. The defense will be scheduled and conducted in accordance with the Graduate College’s policies for thesis and dissertation.

6. **Graduation Requirements**

1. **Residency Credits:** Each track has a differing credit requirement, and the current catalog should be consulted. No more than 6 credits may be transferred into the program. Transfer credit must be pre-approved by the Doctoral Director.

2. **Credit by Challenge Examination:** Graduate courses (with a 600 or 700 number or above) may not be challenged for credit.

3. **Six year Completion Rule:** All degree requirements must be completed within six (6) calendar years from the date of matriculation. No credit may be used in an advanced degree program for course work completed more than six (6) calendar years immediately preceding the term in which all degree requirements are completed.

4. **Graduation Requirements:** Students have a choice of the catalog under which they wish to graduate. They may choose between: 1) the year of official matriculation, or 2) the year of graduation. Students are encouraged to meet the requirements of the current catalog.

7. **Process To Apply For Graduation**

1. An application for graduation is obtained from MyUNLV on the “Student Center” page. The form must be filed during the first week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate (check the class schedule for exact date).

2. After the application form is completed, the student must pay a graduation fee online.

3. Degrees are awarded in May, August, and December. Commencement is held in May and December. All students are encouraged to participate in the commencement exercises. The SON’s Recognition Ceremony is held in May, August, and December.

**Official Transcripts:** Official transcripts of recorded work (credits) completed at UNLV bear the seal of the University and the signature of the Registrar. Upon written request from eligible students, the Office of the Registrar will issue official UNLV transcripts. Transcripts of work from other institutions will not be issued. Transcripts are not issued for any student having a delinquent indebtedness to the university.
Work in progress does not appear on the transcript and is not entered until the semester or registration period officially ends. Transcripts are not prepared during the periods of official examinations, grade recording and registration.

**Program Exit Survey:** Following completion of all course requirements, the student will be asked to complete an exit survey related to program outcomes and overall satisfaction. The survey provides feedback to the program faculty and is utilized in curricular revision. The results of the survey are summarized for various accreditation bodies. Graduates are encouraged to provide correct email addresses so the SON can maintain contact for future events and alumni updates.

**GRADING SCALE OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The passing grade for students in the graduate degree courses (600 or 700 level courses) is 83% (B) or above.

**STUDENT RIGHTS:**
Faculty members have identified the following rights that all students have within the University and School of Nursing by virtue of their citizenship in a democratic society:

- a. To learn without discrimination.
- b. To exercise the liberty to discuss, inquire, and express opinions.
- c. To be evaluated fairly.
- d. To confidentiality.
- e. To have access to channels for grievance or clarification.

**Right to Learn:** Admission is open to all students who are qualified, according to admission standards, without regard to any variable that might indicate differences from the majority of students. All facilities and services utilized to enhance student learning are open to all students.

**To Exercise Liberty to Discuss, Inquire and Express Opinions:** The faculty encourages free discussion, inquiry and expression in the class and/or clinical areas. Discussion should occur in an atmosphere of civility and collegiality. The student's nursing performance must be evaluated on an academic basis and not on personal opinions or conduct unrelated to nursing.

Student membership is actively promoted with voting rights equal to faculty members on all standing faculty committees except when personnel matters are discussed. Students are expected to be active members of the committee and provide faculty with their individual opinions and those of the student body.
The exclusion of students on the Faculty Affairs Council is by intent, but this council uses student input via student evaluations of faculty, which occurs at the end of each semester. In addition, students who have specific concerns about an instructor should discuss these perceptions with the SON Student Services Director or Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, after discussion with the faculty member.

**To be Evaluated Fairly:** Criteria for evaluation, in the form of course objectives, in the class and clinical areas are provided to each student in writing at the beginning of each course.

Student-teacher discussion based on written objectives of the course should occur several times during the semester. Constructive criticism should be provided early enough so that students have the opportunity to improve their performance prior to final grades. Students are expected and encouraged to identify behavior that supports their self-evaluation.

Grades may only be changed by the instructor of the course and once submitted to the Registrar’s Office may not be changed unless due to clerical error.

Students who perceive that an academic grievance has occurred; the correct route of appeal is identified in the [SON policy S-1](#). The appeal process must be completed in 6 months.

**Confidentiality:** Knowledge of the many facets of a student's experience, i.e. social, political, values, etc., gained through frequent interactions, is considered confidential. References are written and records are available for employers or other interested persons only if written permission is provided by the student.

Permanent records are locked. Transcripts do not contain any information that is disciplinary or personal, only academic performance. Written knowledge of student's political or social beliefs are not included in any student records. Students may examine the contents of their records by making an appointment to do so. A member of the staff will remain with the individual while the records are reviewed, a note will be made in the file indicating that the student has reviewed the record.
CHAPTER IV
POLICIES

PROGRAM PROGRESSION, WITHDRAWAL, DISMISSAL, AND REINSTATEMENT:
Please review the SON policy S-12 at: https://www.unlv.edu/nursing/student-resources/policies

SUSPENSION FROM THE SCHOOL OF NURSING:
Based on Unsafe or Unprofessional Conduct
Please review SON policy S-12 at: https://www.unlv.edu/nursing/student-resources/policies

INCOMPLETE:
An incomplete grade can be granted in content/lecture type courses, designed to be completed within one semester, and where the student has failed to complete all of the requirements. The instructor is responsible for determining if the reason for non-completion is satisfactory. An “I” grade is given only when a minor part of the course work remains incomplete and the major portion has been completed at a level which is clearly passing. Graduate students receiving an “I” grade in 600 or 700 level courses have one calendar year to complete all requirements and remove the “I” grade; however, the instructor may require that the Incomplete be made up in less time. The School of Nursing students must complete the requirements prior to enrollment in any classes in which the incomplete course is a prerequisite course. If course requirements are not completed within the time frame indicated by the instructor or within one year, a grade of "F" will be recorded and the Grade Point Average will be re-computed accordingly. Students who are making up an incomplete do not re-register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the "I."

The student and instructor must complete the form "Contract for Completion of Incomplete" and distribute a copy to the student, the instructor and the student's file. The form specifies requirements to be completed and date of required completion. Once the specified requirements are completed, it is the instructor's responsibility to fill out the Incomplete Removal Form and file the form with the Office of the Registrar.

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:
Appeals are requests for consideration of an admission decision, course grade, alleged unfair practice, and relief or waiver from a UNLV policy or requirement. Appeals must be filed with the Graduate College office (FHD 309) in a timely manner. The Graduate College office must receive grade appeals within 60 calendar days from the last day of the term/semester in question. Forms & Policy for appeal can be found at here. Each appeal is reviewed individually and a decision will be based on the merits and the documentation provided. Questions should be directed to the Student Services Director or Doctoral Director.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE:
Please review SON policy S-19 at; https://www.unlv.edu/nursing/student-resources/policies
CHAPTER V
PATHWAY TO DISSERTATION

Below is a guide to help you understand the dissertation process; it is not a complete, comprehensive set of instructions. For complete information on the dissertation process, please refer to the following:

- SON policy C-15 Ph.D Comprehensive Examination and C-20 Ph.D Multiple Article Dissertation
- Videos in WebCampus

TIMELINE

Picking a Chair – Students should choose a committee chair by the third trimester (part-time students may have until their 4th trimester if necessary). Students must first ask the faculty member if he/she will agree to be the committee chair.

PDM1 (Preliminary Dissertation Meeting 1) – Students should complete no later than the trimester before PDM2 and two trimesters prior to the Comprehensive Exam. Can be completed in person or through video conference.

PDM2 (Preliminary Dissertation Meeting 2) – Students should complete no later than the trimester prior to the Comprehensive Exam. Can be completed in person or through video conference.

Comprehensive Exam – Students should complete during the final trimester of required doctoral coursework preceding enrollment in Dissertation (NURS 797). The Oral Comprehensive Exam must be completed in person. Dissertation Proposal – Students should complete during the first trimester of Dissertation (NURS 797). Must complete a presentation of the proposal in person.

Dissertation Defense – Students will provide an oral presentation (defense) of their dissertation study once the written dissertation is complete and the committee determines that the student is ready to progress to defense. Must be completed in person.

PROCESS

PDM1 (Preliminary Dissertation Meeting 1)
The purpose of the PDM1 is for the student and committee members to discuss the broad dissertation topic the student is interested in pursuing for their dissertation. The student should complete the PDM1 by carrying out the following steps:

1. Ask School of Nursing Faculty Members to be on their Graduate Advisory Committee. Although selection of the Graduate College Rep (committee member from outside SON) is not required at this stage, students are encouraged to seek out possible faculty who may serve in this role.
2. Prepare a 1 to 2 page document that identifies a phenomenon of interest and related research ideas. The document should broadly identify the research problem, purpose, sample, design, significance and feasibility of the study.
Schedule the PDM1 meeting with the committee members. The meeting may be done in person or by video conference call. (Participation is optional for the Graduate College rep.)

Once the meeting is scheduled, contact designated doctoral Administrative Assistant with the meeting details (date, time, location, and committee members).

The student and committee members will meet to discuss the broad dissertation topic the student has identified. The committee will help the student focus his/her research topic.

The committee chair will take notes on the meeting and provide them to the student, committee members, and doctoral Administrative Assistant.

**PDM2 (Preliminary Dissertation Meeting 2)**

The purpose of the PDM2 is for the student to refine his/her dissertation plan and prepare for the Written Comprehensive Exam. The trimester prior to the Comprehensive Exams, he/she should schedule and complete the PDM2 by carrying out the following steps:

- Confirm School of Nursing faculty members and Graduate College Rep (outside faculty member) on the committee. Prepare a dissertation plan that integrates the feedback received from the PDM1. The plan should be no more than five pages (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced) and can be a short narrative, a schematic, a table, or an outline that identifies the research problem, purpose, framework, sample design and methods of research.

- Schedule the PDM2 meeting with the committee members. The meeting may be done in person or by video conference call. (The outside member is required to attend).

- Once the meeting is scheduled, contact designated doctoral Administrative Assistant with the meeting details (date, time, location, and committee members).
  - The Administrative Assistant will distribute the necessary forms to the student’s Chair, committee members, and the Doctoral Director.

- No later than one week prior to the PDM2 meeting, the student must send the committee members his/her document.

- The committee chair will take notes on the meeting and provide them to the student, committee members, and designated doctoral Administrative Assistant.
  - At the end of the PDM2, the student should be clear on the expectation for the Comprehensive Exam. The chair and committee members will make a determination regarding the student’s progression and if necessary may request an additional PDM. NOTE: The PDM2 is not a test, but an opportunity to allow committee members to ask questions about the topic and to give suggestions on the purpose, theory, sample design, and methods. The student should be prepared to speak to the points in the plan if the committee asks for more information. Remember this is an opportunity for the committee to guide the student in a direction to be successful in the Comprehensive Exam and help to identify any major flaws in the plan.

**Comprehensive Exam**

During the trimester the student is enrolled in his/her final coursework (preceding enrollment in NURS 797 Dissertation), he/she should schedule and complete the Comprehensive Exam by carrying out the following steps:

- By the end of the second week of the trimester, the student is responsible for scheduling a meeting with the Chairperson of his/her committee to determine the dates for completing his/her written and oral comps. The three dates to discuss are:
1. The beginning of the three week independent work period - During the independent work period, the student must refrain from discussing the written component of the Comprehensive Examination with all Comprehensive Examination Committee members and all other SON faculty and past or present students as well as seeking any consultation assistance outside of the SON. The independent work period must start no later than week 7 of the trimester. (Please see SON Policy C-15 regarding the guidelines to follow during the independent study work period.)

2. Submission of the Written Comprehensive Exam - The written component of the Comprehensive Exam must be submitted to the committee no later than week 10 of the trimester (three weeks before the oral component of the Comprehensive Exam).

3. The date of the Oral Comprehensive exam - The oral component of the Comprehensive Exam must be held no later than week 13 of the trimester.

Upon identifying tentative dates, the student must contact the two other School of Nursing committee members to confirm their acceptance of these dates. The Graduate College Rep (outside committee member) does not have a role in Comps.

- Once the date has been set, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the designated doctoral Administrative Assistant to reserve a room for the oral Comps.
- Once the dates are set, follow the guidelines in SON policy C-15 to ensure correct completion of all steps.

A. Independent Work Period
   • See SON Policy C-15 regarding the guidelines to follow during the independent study work period.

B. Written Comprehensive Exam
   • See SON Policy C-15, Attachment #1 “PhD in Nursing Guidelines for the Comprehensive Examination.”
   • Send written Comprehensive Exam via email to committee no later than three weeks before date of Oral Comprehensive Exam.

C. Oral Comprehensive Exam
   • Student must travel to the UNLV campus to complete.
   • Prepare informal presentation – See SON Policy C-15, Attachment #1 “PhD in Nursing Guidelines for the Comprehensive Examination.”
   • A question and answer period will follow the informal presentation. Once the discussion is completed, the student leaves the room while the committee determines the outcome of the exam and completes the Rubric for Evaluation of Written and Oral Comprehensive Examination (SON Policy C-15, Attachment #2).
   • Receive pass/fail grade from committee:
     o A student receiving a passing grade for both the written and oral components of the Comprehensive Examination may enroll in Dissertation (NURS 797).
     o A student who does not pass the initial written, oral, or both components must repeat the failed component(s) before enrollment in Dissertation (NURS 797).

The student is responsible for scheduling a re-examination of the failed component(s).

Once the student passes the Written and Oral Comprehensive Exam, they will submit an abstract of their proposal and the Graduate College Prospectus Approval form to the entire Graduate Advisory Committee (SON members and Graduate College Rep) for approval. Once the abstract is approved and Prospectus Approval form
completed with committee signatures, the student will advance to candidacy and is eligible to enroll in dissertation credits (NURS 797). (Prospectus Approval and Advance to Candidacy forms are available on the Graduate College website).

**Dissertation Proposal**
- The first trimester the student is enrolled in NURS 797, he/she will begin developing his/her dissertation proposal. The student must travel to the UNLV campus to complete the Dissertation Proposal presentation.
  - Students should strive to complete their dissertation proposal by the end of the first trimester the student is enrolled in NURS 797. The Graduate Advisory Committee chair will establish if the student is making progress toward meeting the established timeline and submitting components of the dissertation in a timely manner. The student will have to schedule a meeting with his/her committee to present his/her dissertation proposal. The meeting date should be determined and scheduled no later than the seventh week of the trimester. Once the date is confirmed, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the designated doctoral Administrative Assistant to reserve a room for the dissertation proposal meeting.
- The dissertation proposal must be submitted to the chair and committee two weeks prior to the meeting date. It is recommended the student bring an electronic copy to make any edits and submit to the designated doctoral Administrative Assistant after the presentation.
- Presentation must be no longer than 20 minutes.
  - Expect the proposal discussion process to last 1 to 1 ½ hours.
- After the proposal has been approved the student can begin the IRB process.
  - Students have two options for their dissertation – the Traditional Dissertation (typically 5 or 6 chapters) and the Multiple Article Dissertation (three manuscripts). Students should discuss both options with their chair and committee, however both options include the Dissertation Proposal development and presentation. (See SON policy C-20 Multiple Article Dissertation)

**Dissertation Defense**
Once the dissertation proposal is approved the committee will work closely with the student to provide guidance on completing the dissertation study. Over the course of this process, the student will write the dissertation chapters or manuscripts and follow a review process determined and agreed upon by their chair and committee. Once the chair and committee are satisfied with the written chapters and have determined the student is ready to defend his/her dissertation, the student will complete the following steps. The student must travel to the UNLV campus to complete the Dissertation Defense. Please also refer to the Graduate College website for complete Thesis and Dissertation information.

**Prior to Coming to UNLV:**
- Apply for graduation.
- Confirm a defense date with the committee.
- Email designated doctoral Administrative Assistant to reserve a room for the dissertation.
- Doctoral Administrative Assistant will complete the forms needed and email them to the student to be verified.
- 3 weeks prior to the Defense date the student must provide a copy of his/her dissertation to the committee.
- All theses and dissertations must be submitted to iThenticate for a similarity check prior to submission of the final document to the Graduate College.
• A copy of the similarity report must be submitted to the chair three days before the defense and to the advisory committee at the time of the final defense, and it will be taken into account when determining the outcome of the defense.
  o Instructions can be found here.
• The dissertation defense will be open to the public; the defense date, time, and dissertation title will be emailed out to our student and faculty populations. Students may have family and or friends attend their defense.
• The student must bring the dissertation on a jump/flash drive so he/she can make needed changes. Students are encouraged to send their dissertation to their email as an added safety measure.
• The student should plan on being in Las Vegas for 1-2 days for the final Dissertation Defense process.

While at UNLV:
• The student should arrive for his/her defense early in order to get paperwork from the doctoral Administrative Assistant and set up his/her presentation.
• Oral Defense must be no longer than 40 minutes.
• After the defense, the student will need to make any required changes to the dissertation.
• If the student makes any changes (other than simple grammatical changes), he/she must re-submit the dissertation to iThenticate and the chair must sign off on the iThenticate report.

Dissertation Submission Process
For official policy please see the Graduate College website.
CHAPTER VI
FEES, EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Tuition and Fees:**
Detailed information concerning tuition and fees is found on the Graduate College web site at:
http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege

**Financial Assistance:**
Students should check with the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office for specific scholarships/loans available. The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office can provide the necessary forms to be submitted. This office is located in the Student Services Complex, Room 232 (702-895-3424). To facilitate application the student should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**Scholarships available to graduate students in all disciplines:** Scholarships for which all graduate students on campus may apply are identified in the Graduate Catalog. Students should check with the Graduate College web page for the latest information on Graduate Scholarships and Fellowships.

**Scholarships available to students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Nursing:**
A number of scholarship and fellowship opportunities are available through the SON. Please review the School website for up-to-date information on these opportunities. Below is a description of some of these opportunities.

**Zeta Kappa Chapter at UNLV of Sigma Theta Tau International Research Scholarships:**
Competitive awards provided to members of the honor society for completion of research projects or as awards for winning the research poster competition. Information may be obtained from the Zeta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International website.

**Nurse Faculty Loan Program:**
This is a federal forgiveness loan program for individuals pursuing an advanced degree in nursing education. Tuition, fees and books are covered by this loan. A student may obtain this loan for up to 5 years as long as the student is enrolled. Within 12 months of graduation the student must find full time employment teaching in a school of nursing or two part time positions in a school of nursing that equal full time employment. At the end of each of the first three years 20% of the loan is forgiven and at the end of the 4th year of employment teaching in a school of nursing another 25% of the loan is forgiven. A call for applications will be sent via the list serve when the School of Nursing is notified of award.

**Graduate Assistantships:**
Graduate assistantships are available in the SON. A graduate assistant (GA) may be employed to teach or assist faculty involved in research and other scholarly activities. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. For more information about Graduate Assistantships, visit the following websites:

- Information from the Graduate College about becoming a GA can be found [here](#)
- Information about becoming a GA for the School of Nursing can be found [here](#)
- Apply to be a Graduate Assistant through [Grad Rebel Gateway](#)
CHAPTER VII
ORGANIZATIONS

Student Nurses’ Association:
All students enrolled in the nursing program are eligible for membership in the Student Nurses Organization.

Membership On The PhD Program Faculty And Curriculum Committee And Departmental Standing Committees:
Graduate students may hold voting membership on all standing committees within the Graduate Nursing Program according to SON’s Bylaws. Student representatives are selected by the graduate nursing student body.

Sigma Theta Tau International:
The Zeta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International was chartered at UNLVs in 1981. The purposes of Sigma Theta Tau are to recognize the achievement of scholarship of superior quality, to recognize the development of leadership qualities, to foster high professional standards, to encourage creative work and to strengthen commitment on the part of individuals to the ideals and purposes of the profession of nursing. Each year invitation to membership is extended to selected student:ts in the undergraduate and graduate programs who demonstrate the qualities identified by the purposes of Sigma Theta Tau. Faculty members and community nursing leaders who possess the minimum of a Baccalaureate in Nursing are also invited to membership. Meetings of educational nature are planned four times per year.

Graduate And Professional Student Association (GPSA)
All registered graduate students of the University are members of the GPSA, Graduate & Professional Student Association of UNLV. The purpose of this organization, established in 1980, is to promote academic and social interests of graduate students. The governing body of GPSA, the Executive Committee, is comprised of elected officers and representatives selected by the graduate students in each department. A graduate student in the SON will be selected to represent the program on the Executive Committee. A GPSA representative holds voting membership on the Graduate Council and on each standing committee of the Graduate College. Learn more by visiting: http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa.
# Appendix A: School of Nursing Graduate Faculty Directory

## School of Nursing

### Graduate Faculty Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Alona Angosta</td>
<td>BHS 402</td>
<td>702-895-1218</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alona.Angosta@unlv.edu">Alona.Angosta@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Aaron Bellow</td>
<td>BHS 453</td>
<td>702-895-3175</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Aaron.Bellow@unlv.edu">Aaron.Bellow@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rebecca Benfield</td>
<td>BHS</td>
<td>702-895-5045</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rebecca.Benfield@unlv.edu">Rebecca.Benfield@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mary Bondmass</td>
<td>BHS 414</td>
<td>702-895-3987</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mary.Bondmass@unlv.edu">Mary.Bondmass@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lori Candela</td>
<td>BHS 462</td>
<td>702-895-2443</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lori.Candela@unlv.edu">Lori.Candela@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Marcia Clevesy</td>
<td>BHS 444</td>
<td>702-895-5932</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Marcia.Clevesy@unlv.edu">Marcia.Clevesy@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Roseann Colosimo</td>
<td>BHS 460</td>
<td>702-895-1220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Roseann.Colosimo@unlv.edu">Roseann.Colosimo@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Catherine Dingley</td>
<td>BHS 430</td>
<td>702-895-4062</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Catherine.Dingley@unlv.edu">Catherine.Dingley@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jessica Doolen</td>
<td>BHS 359</td>
<td>702-895-4719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jessica.Doolen@unlv.edu">Jessica.Doolen@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rachell Ekroos</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Du Feng</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tricia Gatlin</td>
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<td>702-895-5935</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Tricia.Gatlin@unlv.edu">Tricia.Gatlin@unlv.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Kawi</td>
<td>BHS 446</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hyunhwa (Henna) Lee</td>
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<td>702-895-3492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Nirmala Lekhak</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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Note: For information of faculty research interest areas go to: [https://www.unlv.edu/nursing/about-research](https://www.unlv.edu/nursing/about-research)
Appendix B: School of Nursing Academic Affairs Office and Contact Information

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