



Doctor of Nursing Practice

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Fall 2026 – Summer 2027

"Nurse Leaders Begin Here"

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Handbook

Welcome to the UNLV School of Nursing

Welcome from the Dean



Welcome to UNLV and the School of Nursing! We are thrilled that you chose our top-notch programs to further your education and career. We have dedicated, diverse, and talented faculty and staff to ensure that your experience at the School is positive and worthwhile. Taking this next step in your educational journey opens up a world of possibilities, and we are here to support you and cheer you on as you achieve your goals. Our graduate curricula are rigorous yet flexible to allow working professionals to complete their degrees without compromising other responsibilities. This handbook provides you a roadmap for success. On behalf of the brilliant people who make up the UNLV School of Nursing, I would like to thank you for partnering with us as future nurse leaders who will transform health care and make impactful contributions to your communities, and when you graduate, we encourage you to stay engaged with us as alumni and come back to earn that next degree! Go Rebels!

Sigrid Barrett, PhD, RN, PNP, CNE, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Welcome from the Associate Dean of Advanced Education



Congratulations on joining the UNLV School of Nursing! You are beginning an exciting journey as part of a vibrant community of scholars, educators, and leaders within our nursing profession. Throughout this program, you will have opportunities to grow academically and professionally, benefit from mentorship, and engage in collegial and supportive networks with faculty and fellow students. I encourage you to take full advantage of the many events and opportunities available to connect, collaborate, and build meaningful professional relationships. This handbook is designed to guide you as you get started and to serve as a valuable reference throughout your academic journey. We are delighted to have you as part of our UNLV School of Nursing community.

Reimund Serafica, PhD, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, CNE, FTNSS, FAAN
Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Advanced Education

Mission Statement

Our mission is to advance the science of health and healthcare by preparing nurse clinicians, educators, leaders, and researchers to optimize health equity and wellness of individuals, families, communities, and populations. The School of Nursing promotes, improves, and innovates nursing through interdisciplinary and transformational education, scholarship, practice, and community engagement.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the **UNLV Graduate Catalog**. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the **UNLV Graduate Catalog**, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: gradassociatedean@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the **UNLV Graduate Catalog**. Faculty must hold graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the **Graduate Faculty status web page**.

Program Information

Doctor of Nursing Practice

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DNP Sub-plans:

Post-Bachelor’s Family Nurse Practitioner (BSN to DNP)
Post-Masters Advanced Practice (MSN to DNP)
Post-Bachelor’s Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

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Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework and culminating experience](#) are found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Advisory Committee Guidelines

For programs that require a thesis or dissertation, a graduate advisory committee is mandatory and must conform to the Degree Progression Policies and Procedures provided in the [graduate catalog](#).

Membership on DNP Graduate Advisory Committees (GACs) is to be determined by the student in consultation with their advisor, other members of the faculty, the Director of Doctoral Education, and/or others as needed. GAC Chairs must be full-time members of the School of Nursing Faculty. While the student's advisor may also serve as Chair of the GAC, this is not required. Two additional faculty GAC members from the School of Nursing and one faculty member from outside the School of Nursing (Graduate College Representative) are also required for a complete GAC. Per Catalog, typically a complete GAC consists of at least four members (1 chair, 2 members, 1 Graduate College Representative).

Required On Campus Visits

1. Several courses require in-person attendance for example IPE (Interprofessional Education).
2. Orientation - two day introduction to the UNLV School of Nursing usually held in late July and a requirement to start the program
3. DNP Project Proposal - Proposals must be delivered in a face to face manner with all committee members present
4. DNP Project Defense - Defenses must be delivered in a face to face manner with all committee members present and announcement sent two weeks in advance for general public attendance.

Degree Benchmarks

To progress in the DNP program, the student must:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 (B) or above each semester enrolled.
2. Receive a grade of "B" or above in all required cognate and nursing courses. If less than a "B" occurs, for example a "B-" is earned, the student must repeat the course. The student may repeat a course only one time.
3. Complete a minimum of six degree program credits per calendar year (3 credits per semester; calendar year defined as fall and spring semesters).
4. Continuously register for three semester hours of credit each semester while working on a culminating project.
5. Maintain the standards of academic and professional integrity expected in a particular discipline or program.

If students do not maintain any of the degree benchmarks, they may be placed on academic probation via the Graduate College process.

Program Timelines

The DNP plans of study below reflect full-time enrollment. Students seeking part-time enrollment status should contact the Student Services Office to discuss if a modified plan of study option is available. Plan of Study forms may be found on the [Degrees Directory](#) website and must be submitted to the Graduate College via Grad Rebel Gateway for official review and approval.

Sample Plan of Study: Post Bachelor to DNP

Course #	Course Title	Term	Credit
NURS 704	Advanced Pathophysiology and Genetics I	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 703	Advanced Health Assessment	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 734	Health Systems Science and Quality Improvement	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 730	Advanced Pharmacology and Genetics II	Year 1 – SP	3
NURS 758	Advanced Statistics and Methods for Doctor of Nursing Practice	Year 1 – SP	3
NURS 726	Healthcare Issues and the Law	Year 1 – SP	2
NURS 718	Organizational Management for the Advanced Practice Nurse	Year 1 – SP	3
NURS 716	Population Health: Analysis and Evaluation	Year 1 – SU	3
NURS 708	Analysis and Economics of Healthcare Systems and Delivery	Year 1 – SU	3
NURS 719R	Health and Public Policy for Advanced Practice Nursing	Year 1 – SU	3
NURS 729R	Translational Evidence for Healthcare System	Year 2 – FA	3
NURS 788	DNP Project I (120 practice clinical hours)	Year 2 – FA	3
NURS 701	Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for the APRN (60 clinical hours)	Year 2 – FA	2
NURS 766	Nursing Informatics for Advanced Practice	Year 2 – FA	2
NUR 720	Family Nurse Practitioner I (FNP I) (240 clinical hours)	Year 2 – SP	6
NURS 788	DNP Project II (180 practice hours)	Year 2 – SP	3
NUR 721	Family Nurse Practitioner II (FNP II) (240 clinical hours)	Year 2 – SU	7
NURS 788	DNP Project III (180 practice hours)	Year 2 – SU	3
NUR 722	Family Nurse Practitioner III (FNP III) (240 clinical hours)	Year 3 – FA	6
NURS 768	DNP Forum and Role Transformation	Year 3 – FA	3
NURS 769	Dissemination of DNP Scholarly Work	Year 3 – FA	1
		Total	68

Sample Plan of Study: Post Master's to DNP

Course #	Course Title	Term	Credit
NURS 734	Health Systems Science and Quality Improvement	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 729R	Translational Evidence for Healthcare System	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 718	Organizational Management for the Advanced Practice Nurse	Year 1 – FA	3
NURS 758	Advanced Statistics & Methods for Doctor of Nursing Practice	Year 1 – SP	3
NURS 726	Healthcare Issues and the Law	Year 1 – SP	2
NURS 788	DNP Project I (120 practice hours)	Year 1 – SP	3
NURS 788	DNP Project II (180 practice hours)	Year 1 – SU	1
NURS 716	Population Health: Analysis and Evaluation	Year 1 – SU	3

Course #	Course Title	Term	Credit
NURS 708	Analysis and Economics of Healthcare Systems and Delivery	Year 1 – SU	3
NURS 788	DNP Project II (120 practice hours)	Year 2 – FA	2
NURS 719R	Health and Public Policy for Advanced Practice Nursing	Year 2 – FA	3
NURS 766	Nursing Informatics for Advanced Practice	Year 2 – FA	2
NURS 788	DNP Project III (180 practice hours)	Year 2 – SP	3
NURS 768	DNP Forum and Role Transformation	Year 2 – SP	3
NURS 769	Dissemination of DNP Scholarly Work	Year 2 – SP	1
		Total	38

Sample Plan of Study: CRNA

Course #	Course Title	Term	Credit	Clinical	Hours
NURS 689	Informatics and Technology for the CRNA	Year 1 – FA	3		
NURS 802	A Systems Approach to Quality & Safety	Year 1 – FA	2		
NURS 704	Advanced Pathophysiology and Genetics I	Year 1 – FA	3		
NURS 703	Advanced Health Assessment	Year 1 - FA	3		
					11
NURS 801	Professional Aspects of CRNA Practice	Year 1 - SP	3		
NURS 688	Chemistry & Physics for CRNA	Year 1 – SP	3		
NURS 730	Advanced Pharmacology and Genetics II	Year 1 – SP	3		
					9
NURS 687	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology for CRNA	Year 1 – SU	3		
NURS 804	Foundations of Anesthesia	Year 1 – SU	3		
NURS 755	Advanced Pharmacology for CRNAs I	Year 1 – SU	3		
					9
NURS 729R	Translational Evidence for Healthcare System	Year 2 – FA	3		
NURS 805	Basic Principles of Anesthesia	Year 2 - FA	7	300	
					10
NURS 806	Advanced Anesthesia I (SEE #1)	Year 2 – SP	7	300	
NURS 788-1	DNP Project I	Year 2 – SP	3		
					10
NURS 807	Advanced Anesthesia II	Year 2 – SU	7	300	
NURS 788-2	DNP Project II	Year 2 – SU	3		
NURS 691	Epidemiology and Biostatistics for Population Health and Anesthesia	Year 1 – SU	3		
					13
NURS 808	Advanced Anesthesia III	Year 3 – FA	7	300	
NURS 788-3	DNP Project III	Year 3 - FA	3		
					10

Course #	Course Title	Term	Credit	Clinical	Hours
NURS 809	Advanced Anesthesia IV (SEE #2)	Year 3 - SP	9	420	
					9
NURS 810	Advanced Anesthesia V	Year 3 - SU	9	420	
NURS 830	CRNA Project Dissemination	Year 3 – SU	1		
					10
		Total		2040	91

UNLV Student Conduct Code

The UNLV Student Conduct Code, including matters related to academic integrity, can be found in the [graduate catalog](#).

ACCREDITATION

The baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN) program, master's degree in Nursing (MSN) program, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, and post-graduate APRN certificate program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)—School of Nursing (SON) are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. The BSN and MSN programs were originally accredited on October 13, 2008 and underwent a site visit for continued accreditation in Fall 2023. The post-graduate APRN certificate and the DNP programs had their initial accreditation visit on October 2, 2017, with current accreditation through June 30, 2033.

The UNLV SON's Nurse-Midwifery Program had a pre accreditation visit by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) on March 3, 2023 and is pre accredited through February 28, 2028.

All eligible programs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Baccalaureate degree in Nursing {BSN}; Master's degree in Nursing {MSN}; Doctor of Nursing Practice {DNP}; and post-graduate APRN certificate program) are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791 The Nurse-Midwifery Program {CNM} is pre accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The UNLV SON Nurse Anesthesia Program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), 10275 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 906 Rosemont, IL 60018-5603, 224-275-9130.

NURSING STANDARDS

The American Nurses Association has defined standards and codes by which all nurses practice. As a professional program it is expected that students will demonstrate behaviors that reflect the defined standards of nursing throughout their academic experience. Students in the specialty areas will also be guided by published standards appropriate to their specialty.

American Nurses Association Standards of Nursing Practice

- The collection of data about the health status of the client/patient is systematic and continuous. The data are accessible, communicated, and recorded.
- Nursing diagnoses are derived from health status data.
- The plan of nursing care includes goals derived from the nursing diagnoses.
- The plan of nursing care includes priorities and the prescribed nursing approaches or measures to achieve the goals derived from the nursing diagnoses.
- Nursing actions provide for client/patient participation in health promotion, maintenance and restoration.
- Nursing actions assist the client/patient to maximize his health capabilities.

- The client's/patient's progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement is determined by the client/patient and the nurses.
- The client's/patient's progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement directs reassessment, reordering of priorities, new goal setting and revision of the plan of nursing care.

CODE OF ETHICS

The graduate program also adheres to the Code of Ethics for Nurses as published by the American Nurses Association (2025). Interpretive statements related to the statements identified below may be found at [American Nurses Association Ethics](#)

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.
2. A nurse's primary commitment is to the recipient(s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.
3. The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care.
4. Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.
5. The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.
6. Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.
7. Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.
8. Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines and the public to achieve greater ends.
9. Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing.
10. Nursing, through organizations and associations, participates in the global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing.

Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form. The IDP assesses student progress during the prior calendar year and establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead.

Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each student's submitted IDP and provide acknowledgement that they have reviewed the IDP.

Reported student data is shared with students' graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students' strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner.

Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

Clinical Learning*

On-Campus Intensives

Students are required to attend on-campus New Graduate Student Orientation and may be required to attend in-person intensives which vary by program and semester. These mandatory intensives typically consist of two-to-five day hands-on activities, interprofessional education, simulation, student presentations, and face-to-face interactions with faculty and experts.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Student Clinical Information

UNLV School of Nursing guarantees clinical placements in Nevada in the greater Las Vegas Metro area to students who hold a valid Nevada RN license. Out-of-state students located in approved states (states in which the School of Nursing can offer various programs/tracks) must hold a valid RN license in the state and jurisdiction in which they intend to complete their program. A list of approved states is available on the Road to Rebel Nursing Webpage. Students are encouraged to partner with the School of Nursing in identifying potential preceptors and clinical practice experiences in their local community in one of those approved states. The UNLV School of Nursing must review and approve all out-of-state and out of the Las Vegas metro area preceptors and clinical sites. UNLV ensures adequate physical resources and clinical sites are available in Nevada to achieve the program's mission, goals, and expected outcomes for all admitted students. UNLV strives to approve student recommended out-of-state/out of the Las Vegas Metro area quality clinical practice experiences and preceptors; however, UNLV offers no guarantees for out-of-state/out of the Las Vegas metro area clinical placements and preceptors and/or assistance in finding out-of-state/out of the Las Vegas metro area placement sites and preceptors. If out-of-state/out of the Las Vegas metro area students are unable to secure a UNLV approved preceptor and/or site in their home communities then students are expected to acquire a Nevada RN license, relocate to the greater Las Vegas metro area, and the UNLV School of Nursing will assign them a preceptor and clinical site in the Las Vegas area (up to 75-miles from UNLV within NV state lines).

APRN students must maintain satisfactory performance in their designated clinical course to ensure progression through all clinical rotations. Students are expected to perform more independently as they progress through their clinical courses such that by the final clinical course the student is functioning with minimal supervision. Students must also follow the requirements, procedures, and responsibilities to be successful in the program.

- Students will be evaluated twice during each clinical course (at mid-term and final of the semester). The mid-term evaluation will be conducted online using the virtual clinical evaluation (VCE) approach. The final clinical evaluation will be an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).
- Students will notify the Clinical Operations for clinical placement before the beginning of each semester. If the student has a preceptor she/he would like to work with, the student should contact the Director of Clinical Operations and provide the preceptor's name and contact information by specified dates for each clinical semester.

Clinical Hours, Experiences, and eValue

Students will use this system to maintain up to date records throughout the program. The student should enter clinical experiences immediately following clinicals, **but no later than 72 hours after the clinical experience, and weekly by Sundays at 11:59pm pacific time**. Failure to stay up to date with data entry may result in experiences not being counted. eValue data is used for national certification application and accreditation to track students' number and type of patient encounters

with diagnoses and procedures and allows faculty to track the clinical experiences of the student. The Faculty Site Visitor will review the entered data.

If clinical hours are not done in any week of the semester, students must notify their clinical instructor prior and then submit a note in the clinical log assignment indicating that hours were not completed that week. Each clinical log is pass/fail. If a student has a prearranged absence for one week (e.g., week 1 or week 15), the student is still required to submit in the clinical log assignment noting that he/she did not do clinical hours for reasons noted (e.g., week 1 – have not started clinical rotations yet; week 15 – not doing hours this week since done with required clinical hours).

Clinical hours are based on direct patient care of real people. Thus, telehealth hours count as clinical time, and simulation hours do not. Travel to and from the clinical site as well as lunch/breaks cannot be counted in the total for each clinical rotation. These guidelines follow the National Task Force guidelines on quality NP Education for a definition of direct patient care. Course hours requirements must be satisfied each term, but additional hours may be needed to achieve competence.

*The clinical learning section is specific to MSN and post-bachelor-DNP students only.

CRNA Specific Information

DNP-CRNA PROGRAM GOALS

A graduate of the DNP-CRNA program will be prepared to:

- Complete a preoperative interview and patient-centered care plan.
- Demonstrate delivery of safe anesthetic with vigilant protection of patients and prevention of complications.
- Deliver individualized perianesthetic care throughout the anesthetic continuum to patients of all ages and physical conditions.
- Possess skill and knowledge necessary to function as a resource person for airway and ventilatory management of patients in a variety of settings.
- Demonstrate critical thinking during decision making and application of sound principle and research evidence to practice.
- Demonstrate mastery of anesthesia concepts and skills by passing the NBCRNA exam in accordance with Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) policies.
- Possess verbal, nonverbal, and written communication skills needed to effectively communicate with all individuals influencing patient care.
- Demonstrate professional attributes and integrity necessary to accept responsibility and accountability of new anesthesia practice.

Degree Program Benchmarks

To progress in the DNP program, the student must:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 (B) or above each semester enrolled.
2. Receive a grade of “B” or above in all required cognate and nursing courses. If less than a “B” occurs, for example a “B-” is earned, the student must repeat the course. The student may repeat a course only one time. Before a student is separated from the program, they must be placed on probation via the Graduate College process.
3. Complete a minimum of nine (9) degree program credits per calendar year (3 credits per semester; calendar year defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters).
4. Continuously register for three semester hours of credit each semester while working on a culminating project.
5. Maintain the standards of academic and professional integrity expected in a particular discipline or program.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

Before beginning clinical rotations, DNP-CRNA students must have Nurse Anesthesia Resident (NAR) Malpractice Insurance. Students will be given directions/applications to attain malpractice insurance through the professional affiliation, AANA.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain, and fund, their malpractice insurance through AANA Insurance Services. Professional liability coverage with limits of \$1,000,000 per claim and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate (standard limits for this type of coverage) must be obtained. Proof of insurance will be provided to the clinical facility prior to the student beginning clinical rotations. Malpractice insurance has to be renewed annually. NAI's will maintain coverage during the length of their clinical rotations or they will be removed from clinical rotations immediately and not allowed to practice until coverage is secured.

DRESS CODE

As health care professionals, an image that reflects our commitment to quality care must be presented. It is important to establish an appearance of professionalism to build a relationship of trust and respect with our patients, colleagues, and faculty. This is in accordance with the profession and professional organization. In order to accomplish this goal, students in the academic and clinical arena must maintain professional attire at all times and good personal hygiene is to be maintained. Students are expected to conform to dress codes of affiliating hospitals.

- Students are required to wear clean scrubs while in clinical. Generally, hospital scrubs will be provided for you. A name tag must be worn at all times while at a clinical site.
- Hair must be clean, neat, and must be pulled back without hair ornaments and/or colors. When in the clinical environment, hair must be contained in an approved hair net/cap.
- Jewelry should be limited to a simple band (ring) and a pair of small post earrings. Ear gages are discouraged, but when in place, should be of clear or subdued color. Earrings should be limited to no more than two (in each ear) and should be small, non-dangling, or post/stud type earrings.
- Nails must be clipped to no longer than the end of the finger. Artificial nails and nail polish are not acceptable.
- Perfume and cologne should be kept to a very slight scent, or not be worn. Personal hygiene is required, which includes the absence of body odor and/or smoke.
- Visible tattoos will be covered while in the clinical setting.
- Visible body piercings will be removed; however, students may have one small nose piercing.
- Facial hair is expected to be neat and groomed.
- During pre- and post-operative visits, the student must maintain professional attire. A white lab coat is encouraged during visitation.
- Undergarments must be worn and must not be visible through, or around clothing. Clothing that reveals too much cleavage, your back, your chest, your feet, your stomach or your underwear is not appropriate.
- Extremes in style or clothing, which may be distracting, offensive or immodest, are not appropriate.
- Footwear for clinical areas should be appropriate for the work area. Shoes should be clean and not worn outside of the hospital. Safety should be the primary consideration when selecting footwear for work. Open-toed shoes are not allowed in the clinical facility and socks must be worn.
- OSHA mandated standards for Universal Precautions must be utilized during the perioperative experience. This includes, but is not limited to, gloves and protective eye covers.
- An N95 particulate respirator-type mask will be worn on TB or suspected TB patients.
- Scrub clothes will be changed whenever visibly wet, soiled, or following an MRSA case or other air-borne transmitted diseases (i.e., N1, H1 influenza).
- Questions or clarifications on what would be considered appropriate attire should be directed to the Nurse Anesthesia Faculty.

Student Badges and Title

UNLV School of Nursing badges are to be worn at all times in the clinical setting. Hospital identification may also be required to be worn at all times. Students should not misrepresent themselves. Students should address themselves as a Nurse Anesthesia Resident (NAR), or Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist (SRNA), unless advised to use an alternate, similar title by the clinical preceptor. Under no circumstances should a student misrepresent who they are.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Academic Courses

Reasons a student may be receive a disciplinary/probation letter in academic courses include but are not limited to:

1. Unprofessional conduct as defined by the profession and UNLV/NSHE
2. Failure to meet course requirements as outlined in the course syllabus

Clinical Courses

Reasons a student may receive a disciplinary letter in clinical courses include, but are not limited to:

1. Failure to meet course requirements as outlined in the course syllabus
2. Unsatisfactory completion of requirements outlined in a "Letter of Academic or Clinical Warning"
3. Failure to communicate serious patient/staff events with program faculty
4. Unauthorized absence from the Anesthesia Department during regularly scheduled clinical hours
5. Failure or refusal to follow instructions of a duly assigned supervisor including refusal to accept a clinical assignment or perform a required treatment modality that is within the student's scope of practice and does not compromise patient safety
6. Use of vile, intemperate or abusive language, or acting in a disrespectful manner to any employee, supervisor, faculty, student, patient, or hospital visitor
7. Any disorderly conduct on hospital premises
8. Creating or contributing to unsafe or unsanitary conditions
9. Failing to be prepared for clinical duties
10. Unauthorized possession, use, copying, or distribution of hospital records or disclosure of information contained in such records to unauthorized persons
11. Unprofessional appearance, dress, or personal hygiene
12. Self-disclosed alcohol and/or drug use/abuse
13. Use of personal cellular phone/tablet for reasons other than patient care or communication with faculty/supervisor
14. Unsatisfactory clinical progress (<3.0) with or without the negative evidence of the daily clinical evaluation tool.
15. Violating the dress code.
16. Violating a hospital policy or procedure.

Dismissal Procedure

Student dismissal from the CRNA program may occur for a variety of reasons, including violations of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct or academic performance. For conduct-related matters, students are referred to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. In cases related to academic performance, students will be placed on probation via the Graduate College process with the opportunity to improve. If performance does not improve, the dismissal process may be initiated.

Reasons a student may be dismissed from the DNP-CRNA program include but are not limited to:

1. Theft of patient, employee, hospital or school property
2. Falsification of application records, hospital documents, or clinical evaluations
3. Cheating on coursework (students dismissed for cheating will never be able to sit for the NCE (NBCRNA policy))
4. Violation of the American Nurses Association "Code for Nurses" guidelines for ethical practice, or the National Student Nurses' Association "Code of Academic and Clinical

- Conduct”. Violations of patient privacy/HIPPA will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal. This includes inappropriate use of the cellular phone (pictures) without proper patient and hospital consent ahead of time.
5. Unprofessional behavior in the classroom, on school grounds, or in the clinical setting
 6. Unsafe practice or unsatisfactory performance and progression (less than 3.0) in the clinical area, as documented on a semester evaluation.
 7. Criminal arrest for a felony or serious misdemeanor (as determined by the Program Director)
 8. Failure to successfully complete classroom and/or clinical disciplinary actions and remediation requirements.
 9. Confirmed substance abuse
 10. Failure to report a criminal arrest or positive drug screen to the Program Director within 24 hours.
 11. Physical abuse of any person on college or hospital property
 12. Insubordination (second offense)
 13. Violations of patient confidentiality
 14. Revocation or suspension of any Registered Nursing license
 15. If a student can't be given a complete clinical rotation due to a past or present situation in which they were involved in criminal activity or had/have nursing license restrictions, the student will be dismissed from the DNP-CRNA program. A complete rotation is defined as “a clinical rotation schedule necessary to assure the student will get all required clinical cases.”
 16. Falsification of patient records or other hospital records.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES

To successfully progress through the CRNA program, students must be able to demonstrate intellectual-conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; skills in observation, communication and motor functions; and mature behavioral and social attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but a student should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner without a trained intermediary. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment or performance must be mediated by someone else's power of selection, observation, or performance.

Sensory

- Ability to detect and interpret changes in monitoring alarms and equipment.
- Have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the outpatient setting, and the patient's bedside.
- Possess sensory skills adequate to perform a physical examination are required. Functional vision, hearing and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information from computerized monitors, and through procedures regularly required in a physical examination, such as inspection, auscultation and palpation.
- Ability to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

Communication

- Ability to speak, hear and observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications.

- Ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes speech, as well as reading and writing.
- Ability to communicate effectively via oral and written modalities interacting with all members of the health care team.

Motor

- Possess sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Ability to negotiate patient care environments and must be able to move self/patients between settings, such as clinic, classroom building, and hospital.
- Ability to execute motor activities reasonably required to provide general care, to perform direct laryngoscopy, arterial and venous line placement, and performance of peripheral and central nerve blocks, anesthesia gas machine operation and troubleshooting, and to provide emergency and urgent treatment to patients such as fiberoptic intubation and therapies of the difficult airway algorithm.
 - Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of a nurse anesthetist are cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the administration of intravenous medication. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

- Possess intellectual-conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities including measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem-solving, the critical skill demanded of a nurse anesthetist, requires all of these intellectual abilities.
- Ability to comprehend 3-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures for the performance of peripheral and central nerve blocks.
- Ability to read and understand medical and nursing literature. In order to complete the degree, candidates must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in a timely and often critical fashion in problem-solving and patient care.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other healthcare personnel.
- Ability to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
- Commitment to excellence, service orientation, goal-setting skills, academic ability, self-awareness, integrity and interpersonal skills are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education process. Because the nature of nurse anesthesia education is based on a mentoring process, candidates are expected to be able to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivations are all personal qualities that are required.

Students must be able to perform all COA required cases to progress in the DNP-CRNA Program. Due to the nature and intensity of the work, students with disabilities will be assessed on an individual basis in relation to their ability to meet the didactic and clinical requirements of the curriculum in collaboration with the UNLV **Disability Resource Center** (DRC). The DRC is

committed to supporting students with disabilities through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities.

Distractions in the Clinical Environment

The clinical site is considered to be a professional learning environment. Whenever possible, the clinical arena should be treated as a place where every effort will be made to encourage patient safety and appropriate level of care. Clothing (see the Dress Code Procedure) and accessories, including tattoos, hair and piercings, should not be distracting. Eating and drinking in the clinical environment is strictly forbidden. Use of mobile devices is not permitted, unless it is necessary for patient care and in no way interferes with patient safety and care. Pictures should never be taken in the patient care areas.

LEAVE PROCEDURES

1. While on clinical rotation, students will follow the UNLV School of Nursing academic calendar for semester breaks and major holidays. Any additional time off must be preapproved by DNP-CRNA program faculty and made up at a later date.
2. Not all requests may be granted. **Days off** will be granted at the mentor's discretion but will be equitably applied for all students.
3. Time off, especially longer than one week, is discouraged during students' clinical practicum.
4. If the clinical site has a "scheduled day off" (including holidays), the student is not required to be in clinical practicum.
5. Days off to attend any conferences and/or reviews must be approved by DNP-CRNA program faculty. Students must make a request to attend any conference or review program, at least one month prior to attendance. These days are to be entered in the appropriate section under "Committed Time" in E-value.
6. All days off must be entered into the student's E-value record within 72 hours

Military Leave of Absence

Students may receive up to 10 days of "excused absence" each calendar year for required military training. Active duty orders must be presented to the DNP-CRNA director before it will be considered. Any additional days off will require that the student make up missed clinical days. Extended Military Leave of Absence will be reviewed/granted on an individual basis by the DNP-CRNA director.

Humanitarian Service Leave

Students are encouraged to participate in humanitarian missions with certified anesthesia providers, as opportunities are presented. Days off for these missions must be approved by the DNP-CRNA Administration and the student may have to make up missed clinical days for these missions. Humanitarian missions are considered an observation rotation, where students are not allowed to count any cases toward meeting COA requirements. Humanitarian missions are at the expense of the student and/or sponsoring provider or organization.

Bereavement Leave

When a death occurs in a student's immediate family, the student may request personal time off to attend the funeral or make funeral arrangements. The program may require verification of the need for the leave. Immediate family members are defined as a student's spouse, parents, stepparents,

siblings, children, stepchildren, grandparent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, or grandchild.

Fraternization

Students, faculty, and clinical preceptors are expected to maintain professional boundaries. Personal and business relationships are discouraged while the student is enrolled in the DNP-CRNA program. Any instances of harassment or uncomfortable situations should be immediately reported to the CRNA Program Director. UNLV/NSHE policies will strictly apply.

Completion of a School of Nursing Incident Report

An incident is an occurrence of anything out of the ordinary that results in or has the potential to result in harm to a patient, employee, visitor, student or faculty member.

Examples of Incidents (or variances) may include, but are not limited to:

- Medication Error
- Physical Injury or Death
- Needle-stick Injury
- Patient Fall

Reporting Procedure after Incident

Immediately following an incident, a student and/or faculty member is responsible to follow agency protocols and report what happened.

- Notify the faculty/supervising preceptor.
- Follow the facility guidelines regarding assessments (e.g. call a staff member to assess a patient before helping the patient to stand up after a fall)
- Follow facility guidelines regarding actions to be taken (e.g. wash your hands immediately with soap and water following a needle-stick injury)
- Notify appropriate administrative personnel in the facility.
- Visit a health provider covered by your personal health insurance for initial treatment and all required follow up appointments as directed.
- Complete a facility incident report.
- Students are to contact the Program Director within 24 hours after the event.

Completion of a School of Nursing Incident Report

Whenever the student, faculty and/or agency employee documents an agency incident report involving a student or faculty member, a “*UNLV Incident Report*” form must also be completed and turned in. It is the student’s responsibility to seek follow-up care for any injuries incurred.

Substance Abuse Procedure (UNLV Student Controlled Substance Response Procedure)

The Controlled Substance Response Policy and Guidelines (CSRP & G) have been developed to provide guidance for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas’ (UNLV’s) students, staff, and faculty regarding possible outcomes/sanctions that may be used relative to students’ consumption, distribution, possession, and/or sale of controlled substances. It is noted that **this policy is a companion to the UNLV Alcohol Response Policy**, and is designed to address all controlled substance incidents not involving alcohol. Students are subject to local, state and federal laws, and also, with appropriate authority and jurisdiction, to the University’s internal conduct procedures. Students found in violation may be accountable to both civil and criminal authorities and to the

University for actions that constitute violations of the UNLV Student Conduct Code and this policy. At the discretion of University officials, conduct procedures at the University may be delayed or moved forward while other proceedings are pending or in progress. This CSRP&G is to be referenced and used to support and enforce controlled substance laws and policies which will include, but not be limited to:

The following levels of outcomes/sanctions will be determined on a case-by-case basis with each individual student. These levels are not necessarily used in order of the number of violations committed. For example, a student's first violation would most often result in the "Level One" responses for determining sanctions. In the event, however, that a student's situation is deemed more serious (even if it is the first violation), the student may face sanctions from any or all of these levels.

For the purposes of providing the most appropriate educational response, controlled substance violation cases will be handled:

1. according to the category of controlled substance.
2. whether this is a first violation or a recurring violation.
3. seriousness of the violation. In general, seriousness of the violation shall be considered in terms of threat to self and/or the campus community.

Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team

In cases involving anything more serious than a Level One marijuana violation; the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team may first review any available documentation to discuss the most developmentally sound approach to the case and how best to contact/work with the student.

The Consultation Team shall be composed of professionals from areas within the UNLV campus community that are identified stakeholders in the controlled substance response policy enforcement. For example; one representative each from Student Counseling and Psychological Services, the Office of Student Conduct, and Public Safety. A Campus Housing representative may participate when the alleged violator is a resident. Terms to serve on the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team could be for a specified time (i.e. 2-3 years).

When a case arises, the OSC representative shall be responsible for calling the Consultation Team together for a case review, assessment, and recommended process of case investigation/adjudication.

Marijuana

1. Level One – Under the influence. Possession and/or use of marijuana and/or paraphernalia. Repeat of UNLV Student Conduct Code Guest Policy/Passive participation or multiple letters of suspicion.
 - 1.1 *Administrative Response:*
 - Disciplinary Probation for the equivalent of one (1) calendar year of attendance
 - Parental Notification *Optional* (See Parental Notification Policy)
 - Notice to all applicable entities specific to the student's status/position on campus (e.g. Athletics, Campus Housing)
 - 1.2 *Educational Response:*
 - Level 1 Alcohol and Other Drug Education program (\$50 cost of program)
 - Reflection Letter of Understanding upon completion of educational program.

- 1.3 *Restitution:*
 - 10 hours of community restitution service – to be determined by discretion of the review board or conduct officer.
 - Additional community restitution service hours may be applied at the discretion of the conduct officer should aggravating circumstances exist
- 1.4 *Total consequences to charged student:*
 - At least one meeting with the Office of Student Conduct (OSC); and potentially others with members of the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team.
 - All Educational Responses and Restitution that are sanctioned (see B. and C. above)
2. Level Two – Repeated violation of Level 1.
 - 2.1 *Administrative Response:*
 - Disciplinary Probation ranging from three academic semesters (not including Summer Terms) up to Disciplinary Suspension with conditions of readmission.
 - Parental Notification * Optional * (See Parental Notification Policy)
 - Notice to all applicable entities specific to the student's status/position on campus (e.g. Athletics, Campus Housing)
 - If a student employee, the student's supervisor will be notified of the violation
 - 2.2 *Educational Response:*
 - CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) Intake Assessment
 - Reflection Letter of Understanding (it is recommended that the areas of reflection to be addressed in the letter be discussed with CAPS)
 - Restriction of student leadership activities and/or privileges (e.g., Executive Board or positional leadership role[s]). Students will not be allowed to represent UNLV within/outside of the University (included student athletes, Greek activities, etc.).
 - 2.3 *Restitution:*
 - 20 hours of community restitution service – to be determined by discretion of the review board or conduct officer.
 - Additional community restitution service hours may be applied at the discretion of the conduct officer should aggravating circumstances exist
 - Total consequences to charged student:
 - At least one meeting with the Office of Student Conduct (OSC); and potentially others with members of the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team.
 - All Educational Responses and Restitution that are sanctioned (see 2.2 and 2.3 above)
3. Level Three – Distributing, Selling, or Growing marijuana. Setting up or possessing laboratory equipment or the materials for the purpose of distributing marijuana. Repeated violations of Level 2.
 - 3.1 *Administrative Response:*
 - Students disciplined, could be indefinite depending upon the student's desire to complete the Conditional Readmission.
 - Completion of items listed on a Conditional Readmission Checklist formulated by the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team that may include any of the items listed in the Educational Response
 - Parental Notification * Optional * (See Parental Notification Policy)
 - If a UNLV student employee, the student's supervisor will be notified of the violation
 - Egregious and/or multiple cases may result in Expulsion.
 - 3.2 *Educational Response* (items on checklist):

- Controlled Substance intake and successful participation/completion of recommended follow-up treatment with ability to share student history with appropriate counselor
 - Communication with counselor to determine if student is fit to return to University community
 - Reflection Letter of Understanding
 - Student will be on probationary status upon readmission
 - 40 hours of community restitution service– to be determined by discretion of the review board or conduct officer.
- 3.3 *Total consequences to charged student:*
- Varies depending upon each case (e.g., financial aid, scholarships, tuition, housing costs, etc.)

Educational Response for any of the aforementioned level violation, will result in student being placed on probation via the Grad College process.

Other/Controlled Substances/Scheduled Drugs

1. Level One – Using, possessing, or being under the influence of any illegal drug or narcotic other than marijuana. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance not lawfully prescribed to that individual. Possessing drug paraphernalia.
 - 1.1. *Administrative Response:*
 - Student Disciplinary Suspended, could be indefinite depending upon the student's desire to complete the Conditional Readmission Checklist
 - Parental Notification * Optional * (See Parental Notification Policy)
 - 1.2. *Condition of readmission/Educational Response:*
 - online program (\$ fee)
 - Letter of Reflection
 - 1.3. *Restitution:*
 - 20 hours of community restitution service – to be determined by discretion of the review board or conduct officer.
 - Additional community restitution service hours may be applied at the discretion of the conduct officer should aggravating circumstances exist.
 - 1.4. *Total consequences to charged student:*
 - At least one meeting with the Office of Student Conduct (OSC); and potentially others with members of the Controlled Substance Response Consultation Team.
 - All Educational Responses and Restitution that are sanctioned (see 1.2 and 1.3 above)
2. Level Two – Repeat of Level One. Distributing, selling, manufacturing, growing or synthesizing an illegal drug or narcotic. Setting up or possessing laboratory equipment or the materials for the purpose of making or distributing an illegal drug or narcotic.
 - 2.1. *Administrative Response:*
 - Expulsion.

See the DNP-CRNA Program Director for the following concerns:

- Student substance testing
- Disciplinary process
- Reporting
 - Nevada BON
 - SON Dean

- Clinical site
- Graduate College
- Student Affairs

Students Time Commitment and Working Outside of Program Commitments

Clinical days are usually four days per week (8-12 hour shifts), but may be longer (up to five days/week with occasional weekend shifts). Students should expect to be in clinical from 6:30-4:00 on most days. Some rotations will involve taking calls through the evening, night, and weekend. Students are prohibited from being at a clinical site for more than 55 hours in any given week.

No student will receive compensation for anesthesia services or be permitted to render anesthesia service outside of the anesthesia program. Violations of this rule may result in dismissal and the student will be referred to the Graduate College and Office of Student Affairs.

Due to the academically rigorous nature of the CRNA curriculum and the extensive time required for academic, lab, and clinical requirements, the faculty strongly recommend that students do not seek outside employment. If students choose to work, it should not interfere with coursework and cannot be used as an excuse for leniency if academic issues arise or as an excuse to miss CRNA required courses or events. Should students opt to be employed while enrolled, the DNP-CRNA program strongly recommends that (1) students not plan on working more than 8-16 hours maximum per week and (2) that at least eight (8) hours must lapse between working and reporting to the anesthesia department.

The program forbids the employment of nurse anesthesia students as nurse anesthetists by title or function. Any questions regarding student compensation should be referred to the DNP-CRNA Program Director.

Clinical Case Requirements

*Students are required to attain at least the minimum requirements but are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attain the “preferred” number of cases. These requirements are for doctorate level programs; however, UNLV has committed to achieving these numbers in our Doctorate program. Case numbers are from the latest COA standards dated Jan. 2026.

The minimum number of clinical hours is 2,000

Rules of Conduct

Students enrolled in the DNP-CRNA program are expected to exercise common sense, good judgment, and have at all times personal regard for patients, visitors, supervisors, and other students. Disciplinary action for the following ranges from a written warning to dismissal from the program via the Graduate College probation process, depending upon the violation and the circumstances surrounding the offense.

1. Falsification of application records or other hospital records including time reports.
2. Use, distribution, or unauthorized possession of intoxicating beverages or drugs on hospital premises or reporting to work under the influence of intoxicants.
3. Unauthorized absence from the Anesthesia Department during regularly scheduled clinical hours.
4. Failure or refusal to follow instructions of a duly assigned Supervisor including refusal to accept a clinical assignment or perform a required treatment modality.

5. Use of vile, intemperate or abusive language, or acting in a disrespectful manner to any employee, supervisor, patient, or visitor.
6. Any disorderly conduct on hospital premises.
7. Creating or contributing to unsafe or unsanitary conditions.
8. Unauthorized possession, use, copying, or distribution of hospital records or disclosure of information contained in such records to unauthorized persons.
9. Theft, fraud, or unauthorized use of property or medications belonging to the hospital, patient, or visitor.
10. Unprofessional appearance, dress, or personal hygiene.

Should disciplinary action be necessary, the student will be referred to the Graduate College and Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for appropriate action.

On-Call Procedure

Students are expected to participate in an on-call rotation if the particular clinical site assigns students to be the on-call schedule. All students will participate in an on-call rotation as designated by the clinical instructor. On-call duty should be rotated equally among students. Weekend calls may be involved. Length of call, days involved, and compensatory time off, will vary between clinical sites. The student will participate according to the guidelines set up at each of the clinical rotations.

Clinical Site Credentialing

DNP-CRNA students are to be properly credentialed for all clinical sites, prior to that clinical rotation. Students are expected to maintain all immunizations, certifications and licenses current. Students are also required to pass Federal and State Background checks, as well as drug screens (please see section on Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens below). All clinical sites have their own specifications for required credentialing at their facility. The DNP-CRNA Clinical Operations Office will inform students of specific credentialing needs and will assist them in attaining clinical site clearance to practice. All associated fees are at the expense of the student.

Students who do not (1) maintain current with immunizations, certifications, licenses, malpractice insurance, (2) pass criminal background checks or drug screens, or (3) attain proper credentialing prior to their clinical start will not be allowed to begin or continue their clinical rotation, until they have attained or passed such requirements.

Students are not allowed to contact clinical sites regarding their approval or denial of clinical privileges, without prior authorization from their academic mentor or the program director/assistant director, or Clinical Operations Office.

Information related to the student's academic and clinical performance will be shared with the clinical site and Clinical Operations Office. This information may include academic or clinical probation, drug screen or background check concerns, and nursing license issues.

Criminal Background Checks & Drug Screens

The UNLV SON is committed to provide the public with nurses who demonstrate personal and professional behaviors consistent with the standards of the nurse anesthesia profession. The purpose of these policies is to help ensure a safe environment for patients, peers, faculty, and the general public (as well as to protect property), by conducting State and Federal criminal background checks and drug screens on all nurse anesthesia students.

Students are required to obtain Federal and State Criminal Background checks upon application to the DNP-CRNA program. Students may be required to “re-check” their backgrounds during clinical practice. Students are asked to use the online criminal background service, [MyStudentCheck](#) for Criminal Background checks. Students will give permission to the DNP-CRNA Clinical Operations Office, to review screen results on Online Background checks during online application. Information obtained from the background checks will be shared with the clinical facility as part of the requirement for student clinical placement, if requested. Release forms can be found in the “Forms” section of this handbook.

The Clinical Operations Office will review all online criminal background checks. If adverse information is obtained, the Clinical Operations Office and/or the DNP-CRNA Program Director will contact the student and may be subject to dismissal from the program. Official academic separation from programs is through the Graduate College process.

Students are required to notify the Clinical Operations Office and the DNP-CRNA Program Director, in writing, regarding any changes in their legal status that occurs while enrolled in the DNP-CRNA program within 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the nurse anesthesia program.

Drug Screening

Students are required to submit to a 10-panel drug screen as part of the admission process for the DNP-CRNA program. Students may be asked to repeat drug screens during their clinical practice. Students will use the online service of [MyStudentCheck](#) to request a 10-panel drug screen. Listings for nearby laboratories associated with the online service can be found on the website or obtained from the Clinical Operations Office. Forms to be taken to the lab are available from the Clinical Operations Office of the DNP-CRNA program.

Students are to give permission during the online application for the Clinical Operations Office to have access to review the results. Information obtained from drug screens will be shared with clinical facilities as part of requirement for student placement, if requested (refer to the release form found in this handbook).

The Clinical Operations Office will review all online drug screens. If adverse information is obtained, the Clinical Operations Office and/or the DNP-CRNA Program Director will contact the student and may be subject to dismissal from the

Clinical Supervision Procedure

The DNP-CRNA program ensures that students and CRNA faculty including clinical instructors are currently licensed as registered professional nurses in one jurisdiction of the United States and CRNAs are certified/recertified by the Council on Certification/Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists.

The graduate program clinical instructor will be responsible for ensuring that nurse anesthesia clinical faculty are licensed as registered professional nurses in good standing in the state in which they practice. Faculty members will also be required to be certified by the Council on Certification/Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists. Current faculty credentials are maintained in their faculty file. Faculty files are located in a locked file cabinet in the administrative offices on the campus of UNLV.

Students will also be licensed as registered professional nurses in the state(s) that correspond to their clinical rotations. Copies of current licensure are kept on file by the clinical graduate program coordinator. This is a requirement that must be met prior to beginning any clinical rotation.

DNP-CRNA faculty members visit medical staffing offices at clinical sites to assure compliance with state licensure and national certification.

Clinical supervisors (CRNA and MD/DO) must be immediately available in all clinical areas. “Immediately available” will be defined by each facility, but generally includes the OR suite area and/or available by pager/phone/overhead page. The clinical supervision ratio of 1st year students to instructors is 1:1 at all clinical sites. Senior (3rd-5th semester) students may be supervised at a 1:2 ratio. The clinical site preceptors have the ultimate say on determining whether the student will be supervised at the 1:1 or 1:2 level on a case-by-case basis, as all students progress differently and patient acuity can be fluid.

Students may participate in non-anesthesia, hospital-wide duties that are supervised by a credentialed individual who is authorized by the hospital to supervise student anesthetists. At no time may students work outside of their scope of practice. Students responding to hospital emergencies must be directly supervised by a credential expert who assumes responsibility for their care.

Specific cases and skills that CRNA students are allowed to participate in are at the discretion of their clinical preceptors. It is highly desirable that students be afforded the opportunity to participate in 100% of all anesthetic cases, however, knowledge and comfort level of the student and clinical preceptor may prevent the student from participating in select experiences on a case-by-case basis.

PROGRAM EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Evaluation of the DNP-CRNA program occurs on many levels and continues throughout the entire program. It is the intent of the DNP-CRNA faculty that DNP-CRNA students will have a direct influence on program improvement. This is accomplished through active participation by students in the evaluation process. When possible, students are invited to attend DNP-CRNA committee meetings. This approach maintains a closed-loop process with regards to student evaluations that seek to improve the student’s experience at UNLV. These actions track the students’ progress in the DNP-CRNA program with continued success toward becoming a CRNA. The DNP-CRNA program evaluation policy is outlined below.

DNP-CRNA Program

Individual courses are evaluated by students at the end of each semester. During these evaluations students can critique course content, objectives, instructor quality, meeting room conditions, and anything else they wish to evaluate in a narrative format. Results of these evaluations are reviewed during monthly DNP-CRNA department meetings.

In the program’s annual report to the COA, the program director will review the program and present findings to the DNP-CRNA faculty.

The program will be evaluated at the annual DNP-CRNA Advisory meeting, at which time a review of student performance, SEE exam scores, NBCRNA scores, and attrition, will be presented.

Students will be evaluated during exit interviews at the conclusion of the program. The evaluation results will be shared with DNP-CRNA faculty.

Course Evaluations

Individual courses are evaluated by students at the end of each semester. During these evaluations' students can critique course content, objectives, instructor quality, meeting room conditions, and anything else they wish to evaluate in a narrative format. Results of these evaluations are reviewed by DNP-CRNA faculty in DNP committee meetings and annually with the Dean for Faculty affairs.

In the program's annual report to the COA, the program director will review the program and present findings to the COA in its Annual Report. SEE exam scores, NCE scores, and attrition, will be presented.

Employer Surveys

Employer surveys will be distributed and analyzed on an annual basis by the SON Director of Clinical Operations.

Alumni

Alumni surveys will be distributed and analyzed on an annual basis by the Director of Assessment and Accreditation.

COA Evaluations

Surveys conducted by the COA will be reviewed for program improvement. COA surveys are conducted by the Council, they will be distributed by DNP-CRNA program faculty with results presented at the DNP-CRNA faculty meeting, Dean's meeting, and DNP-CRNA Advisory Board. COA surveys are conducted prior to application for continued accreditation and at the mid-cycle point.

Evaluations of Students

Students are evaluated during clinical practicum after each semester-long clinical rotation experience. Students will be evaluated with the "daily evaluation tool" according to the following schedule:

- 1st semester (NURS 806, Spring): daily
- 2nd semester (NURS 807, Summer): daily
- 3rd semester (NURS 808, Fall): biweekly
- 4th semester (NURS 809, Spring): biweekly
- 5th semester (NURS 810, Summer) weekly

Students will ask their clinical preceptor to complete an evaluation utilizing the Daily Clinical Evaluation Tool to document their performance. Program faculty will monitor each evaluation for unsatisfactory performance or other indicators that require an immediate intervention. If the issue(s) is not of an urgent nature, the DNP-CRNA Program Director will present the issue(s) at the next DNP-CRNA faculty meeting (student faculty meeting participants may be asked to leave for confidentiality reasons).

Students will also be evaluated in-depth at the end of each semester by their clinical coordinator in collaboration with the anesthesia staff at the student's respective clinical site.

Students will submit self-evaluations through E-value invitations at the end of each semester. Scores of less than three (<3.0) will be considered a "Fail" and the student will not pass the clinical practicum course. Students who do not pass will be placed on probation via the Graduate College process. Students may also be evaluated on their clinical performance during clinical site visits by DNP-CRNA faculty members.

Critical thinking is evaluated during research courses by course faculty.

- NURS 691, Epidemiology/Stats for Population Health and Anesthesia (Fall, Year 3)
- NURS 830, CRNA Project Dissemination (Summer, Year 3)

Faculty evaluation during Dean's Exit Interview (April)

Students will receive their final evaluation during exit interviews with faculty on the last days of school utilizing the Clinical Review Form. Students need to pass all requirements in order to be cleared for graduation.

Clinical Sites

Clinical sites will be evaluated by DNP faculty during on-site visits. At that time, student evaluations of the clinical site and clinical preceptors will be reviewed with the clinical coordinator, or his designate.

During monthly DNP department meetings, any clinical site issues will be addressed.

Clinical sites may request to have students do daily evaluations regardless of their term in the program.

Self-Evaluation Exam (SEE)

The SEE will be taken in NURS 806 and NURS 809 through Pearson VUE (the company that operates the testing centers for the NCE and SEE). This exam will guide students studying for the final semester and help prepare students for the NCE. The exam must be passed with a minimum score of 450 in order to graduate, and those who do not pass will strongly be encouraged to take a review course (other than APEX), prior to completing the DNP-CRNA program. Additionally, the student will be required to retake the SEE as many times as necessary, until a score of 450 or better is received. The first two exams are paid for by the DNP-CRNA program. If students have to retake the SEE, it will be at their own expense, and a restriction on personal time off will be initiated.

National Certifying Exam (NCE)

Students must pass the AANA National Certifying Exam in order to apply for a State license to practice as a CRNA*. Each DNP-CRNA graduate must certify that they have not been dismissed from a program for ethical or integrity issues, or documented evidence of cheating, in order to be a candidate to sit for the NBCRNA exam. Student transcripts will be completed and sent by the DNP-CRNA program upon the completion of the DNP-CRNA program as part of the application process.

The NBCRNA exam will be paid for by the student.

*Candidates must pass the National Certifying Exam within 2 years of graduation from an accredited Nurse Anesthesia Program (NAP). Otherwise, they will have to enter and complete an unabridged, accredited NAP.

Nursing Discipline Resources

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL

The Zeta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International was chartered at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas 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 an invitation to membership is extended to selected students 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. Learn more about the Zeta Kappa-At-Large Chapter by visiting: [Zeta Kappa](#)

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GPSA)

All registered students in the graduate program of the University are members of the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA). The mission of this organization, established in 1980, is to promote and represent the interests of graduate and professional students. The governing body of GPSA, the Executive Committee, is composed of elected officers and representatives selected by the graduate students in each department. A graduate student in the School of Nursing 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: [GPSA](#)

University Resources

The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development

The goal of the Graduate Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

Alumni Engagement

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the [commencement office](#) is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for [graduation on time](#) and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College [Student Services Team](#) and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College [RPC Team](#).

Institutional Engagement and Experience

The vision of the Institutional Engagement and Experience is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's engagement mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office is housed under the Division of Human Recourses and also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Graduate Appeals and Issue Resolution

The Office of Graduate Student Services at the Graduate College assists graduate and professional students with addressing concerns and overcoming personal, academic, or financial challenges that might hinder their ability to be successful in their program. The office also provides information and student-centered issue-resolution services and offers guidance, information, and assistance when regular channels have failed to provide graduate students with the information they need to solve problems. Please see website for more information: <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/appeals-issue-resolution>

UNLV Global and the Office of International Student and Scholar Compliance

International Student and Scholar (ISSC) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

The Care Center

The Care Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

The Intersection is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

[UNLV Libraries](#) has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The [Graduate & Professional Student Association](#) serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Military and Veteran Services Center

The [Military and Veteran Service Center](#) is staffed with veterans and veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The [Financial Aid & Scholarships Office](#) supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

UNLV does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities, including admissions, on the basis of sex/gender pursuant to Title IX, or on the basis of any other legally protected category as is set forth in NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13. Reports of discriminatory misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and/or concerns about noncompliance with Title IX or any other anti-discrimination laws or policies should be directed to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator Michelle Sposito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the [online reporting form](#), by email at titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu, by phone at (702) 895-4055, by mail at 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451062, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-1062, or in person at Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH), Room 555.

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Please include the faculty vote of approval in the table below.

Last revised	Revised by	Department Vote Tally: Yes/No/Abs. (date of vote)	Changes summary
3-24-23	Candace Burton	23/0/0 (4-17-23)	Updated to New Template and new program sub-plans
3-26-24	Candace Burton		Updated to include Doctoral Student Update form requirement and new course numbers
4-10-24	C. Burton	15/0/3 (4/9/24)	Updated to include voting and revised TOC
2/18/2025	GPC	5/0/0 (2/18/2025)	Updated information to include CRNA
2/24/2025	Fac Org	30/0/3 (2/24/2025)	Approval of CRNA content and updates
2/23/26	Fac Org	19/1/0 2/23/26	Updates to titles, names, template, curriculum updates