



School of Nursing

College of Health



STUDENT HANDBOOK DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE 2023-2024

Revised June 2021

NOTE: This handbook may be updated during the academic year. When this happens students will be notified of the changes via email and Blackboard. Changes will be effective the time they are posted, unless otherwise noted.

Welcome

to the **University of Alaska Anchorage**

School of Nursing

The faculty and staff of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Nursing (SON) take this opportunity to welcome all new students. We are pleased you have chosen to attend our school, and we hope your educational experience with us will be rewarding.

The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. When implementing this commitment, the University is guided by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Civil Rights Act of 1991; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Executive Order 11246, and Executive Order 11375, as amended; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Pregnancy Discrimination Act; Immigration Reform & Control Act; Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other federal laws or Alaska Statutes which guarantee equal opportunity to individuals and protected classes within our society.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies at the University of Alaska Anchorage:

University of Alaska Anchorage

Director, Office of Equity and Compliance

3890 University Lake Drive, Suite 102

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: 907-786-0818

E-mail: uaa_titleix@alaska.edu

Website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/about/equity-and-compliance/>

There are two parts to the handbook. **Part I** applies to nursing students in all programs, and **Part II** is specific to your Program. The handbook assists you in becoming familiar with various aspects of your chosen degree program. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the contents so you can locate specific information as needed. Use this handbook in conjunction with the UAA Catalog; this handbook does not replace or supersede the UAA catalog or policies.

The UAA School of Nursing programs offer both challenges and rewards. We wish you success in advancing your nursing career.

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Purpose of this Handbook

The purpose of this Student Handbook is to provide important information to guide you through your studies at UAA School of Nursing. In it, you will find important information about the University and the School assembled into a single, easy to use resource. The intent is to help you understand what resources are available to promote your success. Also, it outlines the SON's expectation of all students entering or advancing into our programs.

As a student, you are held accountable for reading the handbook, and for knowing and adhering to the SON's policies, procedures, and behaviors. Please become familiar with the information shared in the handbook.

The handbook is revised annually. However, ***the SON reserves the right to make changes in policy, procedure, and operations as needed. Any changes are communicated to the students, staff, and faculty electronically (email, Blackboard post).***

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Accreditation

The Associate of Applied Sciences, Baccalaureate, Graduate Certificate, and Master's programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing, are fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The next re-accreditation visit will occur in 2025.

Contact Information:

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
Phone: (404) 975-5000
Fax: (404) 975-5020
Email: info@acenursing.org
Web: www.acenursing.org



The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The next reaccreditation visit will occur in Fall 2021.

Contact Information:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
655 K Street NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 887-6791
Fax: (202) 887-8476



Web: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation>

All University of Alaska Anchorage nursing programs are reviewed and approved by the Alaska Board of Nursing, contingent on obtaining and maintaining national nursing accreditation.

Contact Information:

Alaska Board of Nursing
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567
Phone:907-269-8160
Fax:907-269-8156
Email: boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Web:<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/professionallicensing/boardofnursing.aspx>



PART 1: School of Nursing Information

SECTION I: Introduction

Mission

The mission of the UAA School of Nursing is to promote the health and well-being of people and communities by fostering excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and health care.

Vision

The vision of the School of Nursing is to be a leader in the transformation of nursing in Alaska dedicated to improving local and global health outcomes.

Core Values

The core values held by the SON include:

- Excellence – We strive for the best to continually improve ourselves and our endeavors.
- Respect – We treat each person in a manner that recognizes their intrinsic value as a human being
- Integrity – We demonstrate unwavering honesty and decency.
- Caring – We display kindness and concern for all, especially for those in need.

Culture Statement

Organizational culture is defined as the integration of patterns of human behavior that include language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, and values within an organization. Culture encompasses the customary way of thinking and behaving that is shared by members.

- A collaborative culture is sustained, and student success is fostered. Individual and collective behaviors incorporate positive communication, collegiality, support, trust, respect, and celebration of diversity.
- Organizational goals are accomplished through a participative leadership/management style that fosters safety, openness to ideas, and input from members. All ideas and opinions are valued.
- Individual and collective behaviors reflect organizational core values of excellence, respect, integrity, and caring.
- Leadership sets agendas with the input of members and functions as a coach and team builder. Leadership expects results and holds members accountable. Membership expects results and holds leaders accountable.

Nursing Program Philosophy

The following are the beliefs of the faculty regarding professional nursing, health, client systems, critical thinking, academic integrity, nursing education, and teaching-learning; these beliefs guide the graduate nursing education program at UAA.

Professional Nursing

Nursing is a caring profession; it is learned as a science and an art, which synthesizes theoretical and empirical knowledge from science with the practice of the humanistic disciplines. The professional nurse

provides care directed toward health maintenance and promotion, health restoration, and rehabilitation that is based on knowledge derived from theory and research.

Professional nursing care for individuals, families, groups, and populations is structured by the application of critical thinking skills in a variety of settings. The role of the professional nurse is designed to meet the emerging health needs of the public in a changing society; inherent in this role is the application of nursing research to practice and the exercise of leadership and management skills. The professional nurse is liberally educated and prepared to responsibly challenge the status quo by anticipating and adapting to change.

Attributes of professional nursing practice include accepting accountability and responsibility for the evaluation of nursing practice, collaboration with other health care providers and the public in promoting health, and the incorporation of professional values into the therapeutic milieu. This is done with consideration of the ethical and legal implications and dilemmas that affect health care and nursing practice.

Health

Health is a dynamic state of being that varies on personal dimensions such as the presence or absence of disease or disability, ability to fulfill roles, ability to cope and adapt, a sense of well-being, and spirituality. Health is contextual and is influenced by social, political, economic, and cultural environments. The assumption that values and beliefs about health differ is inherent in this conceptualization.

Client System

Professional nurses interact with client systems, which may refer to individuals, families, groups, or populations. Each individual is a unique and holistic being with intrinsic worth whose characteristics reflect interrelationships among internal and external environments comprised of physiological, psychological, sociocultural, developmental, and spiritual factors. Individuals are capable of rational thinking and have the capacity to think, know, and make choices that impact their lives.

Academic Integrity

The profession of nursing holds its members to high standards of conduct. Nurses are expected to be knowledgeable, honest, ethical, responsible, accountable, respectful, and trustworthy. Faculty expect students to demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of their academic work. Academic integrity violations clearly show a lack of core professional values and will not be tolerated in any form. Faculty have a responsibility to the school, to the profession, and to our clientele to graduate nurses with the highest moral, ethical, and professional standards. The University of Alaska Anchorage [Student Code of Conduct](#) provides specific expectations.

Nursing Education

Nursing education prepares nurse generalists at the associate degree level for practice in structured care settings, nurse generalists at the baccalaureate level with

experiences in community, population-focused care and evidence-based practice, nurse specialists at the master's level prepared for advanced practice and leadership, and advanced clinical practitioners at the doctoral level with a focus on improving health care outcomes through evidence-based practice and leadership. At each successive level of nursing education, knowledge and skills in practice, interprofessional collaboration, scientific evidence, and management/leadership increase both qualitatively and quantitatively.

At the baccalaureate level, the educational process is designed to provide the student with opportunities to develop the knowledge, understanding, and competencies necessary for entry into beginning professional practice and graduate study. The general education requirements are designed to support nursing practice and development as an educated, productive citizen in society. They serve as the foundation upon which professional education builds. Professional baccalaureate education is based on theoretical constructs drawn from nursing and related disciplines. It is designed to assist the student in the development of critical thinking, affective, and psychomotor skills. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to use nursing therapeutics to adapt care to meet the health needs of client systems from diverse populations and to develop a framework for ethical decision making. The curriculum prepares students to recognize, analyze, and affect trends in health care, in the profession, and within Alaska.

At the graduate level, the educational process builds on the undergraduate baccalaureate degree in nursing. The goals of graduate education are to prepare the student for advanced professional practice with populations of varying complexity and from a variety of sociocultural contexts. It emphasizes the analysis and application of nursing theory, the development of skills in conducting, evaluating, and applying research to practice, and expanded management and leadership skills. Graduate study at the master's level serves as the foundation for further study at the doctoral level.

Continuing education in nursing and related fields is a lifelong expectation for the professional nurse. As a professional, it is the responsibility of the nurse to maintain currency and competence in the chosen arena of practice.

Graduates of the University of Alaska nursing education programs are prepared to practice in a variety of settings and particularly in settings characterized by the demographic, geographic, climatologic, and cultural diversity that is found in Alaska.

Learning

Learning is expected to influence the values, beliefs, and behaviors of the individual. Within the context of professional nursing education, learning is a primarily goal-directed activity that is promoted when the individual has a clear understanding of the objectives of learning opportunities and when the individual takes responsibility for the accomplishment of identified learning objectives. Developing maturity as a professional is demonstrated by the increasing ability of the individual to become an active participant in defining the objectives of learning experiences.

Learning is enhanced when it begins at a point that is congruent with the learner's expectation of what is to be learned, when educational experiences are organized in a logical sequence, that promotes continuity, and when the unique needs and strengths of individual students and groups of students are recognized and built upon.

Learning becomes professionally relevant when it is applicable to one's experience and when it provides tools that are applicable in diverse situations. It is futuristic and, therefore, must be transferable to new and different situations.

The responsibility of the faculty is to assist individual students in acquiring the knowledge and competencies needed for entry into beginning or advanced nursing practice. In the socialization of the student to the professional nursing role, the faculty member participates with the learner in the teaching-learning process and acts as a critically thinking role model who is both accountable and responsible for professional actions. Faculty also assist students in developing skills in evaluating their need for continuous learning and in meeting those needs through planned activities.

The primary responsibilities of the faculty in the teaching-learning process include the identification of the knowledge and competencies required of students at each level of nursing education, the establishment of minimum standards for demonstrating such, and the evaluation of student behaviors to determine the degree to which standards have been met.

Conceptual Framework

The following unifying concepts provide the framework for the curriculum:

- **Relationship-centered care** includes patient advocacy and caring for all clients, regardless of where they receive health care. This is best accomplished as nurses communicate and collaborate inter-professionally within the broader healthcare community to form caring partnerships for the benefit of society.
- **Clinical Reasoning** is a practice-based form of reasoning that relies upon scientific and researchbased knowledge, the ability to discern the relevance of scientific and technical knowledge, and the applicability of the information to a particular patient or clinical situation. Clinical reasoning occurs within the context of relationships or situations involving patient, family, community, and health care provider teams, and may encompass the patient's goals and preferences, concerns, co-morbidities, and previous responses to interventions and therapies.
- **Inquiry** is a process of continually augmenting knowledge through a commitment to seeking best practices and optimal outcomes. We are committed to constantly questioning, appraising the data/evidence, and incorporating clinical expertise and the patient/family values to solve problems and to enhance patient care. Inquiry refers to exploring all aspects of the health care domain to improve outcomes.

- **Quality** includes the processes and outcomes designed to promote, achieve, and maintain standards of excellence in nursing and health care. When the quality of care is measured, it is compared to a 'standard'; *quality* addresses standards of "excellence" set by the profession *and* by the health care system. *We strive to be at the forefront in promoting, achieving, and maintaining standards of excellence in nursing and health care.*

Nursing Programs

Associate of Applied Science Programs

Graduates of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in the nursing program are prepared to use the nursing process to provide effective nursing services to individuals receiving care in inpatient settings and structured outpatient settings. The academic program provides students with a closely related mix of theory and clinical practice; students gain experience in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and community agencies. The AAS program offers a standard four-semester option, as well as a three-semester option for individuals who hold a current Alaska license as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Graduates of the AAS program earn both the Associate degree and eligibility to sit for National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN).

In 1973, just prior to the graduation of its first class, the Program received the full approval of the Alaska Board of Nursing. Since then, approval has been continuous. Initial accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) was achieved in 1976 and has been continuous ever since.

The most recent review by ACEN occurred in 2017 with a recommendation for full accreditation, with the next review to take place in 2025.

Baccalaureate Program

The Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) Program offers a Bachelor's degree with a major in Nursing Science. There are two options in the program, the Prelicensure Option with courses offered for students in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak to earn both the Bachelor's degree and eligibility to sit for National Council Licensure Examination Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). There is also an RN to BS Option with courses offered for Registered Nurses to earn a Bachelor's degree in nursing. Continuously approved by the Alaska Board of Nursing since the graduation of its first class in 1978, the BS Program received initial accreditation by the ACEN in 1986 and has maintained continual accreditation since that time.

Graduate Programs

Master's Degree in Nursing Science places primary emphasis upon advanced professional nursing practice, theory, research, and health care delivery systems.

Students may develop a specialized practice focus in nursing leadership (NLDR) with an emphasis in nursing education (NLDR-EDUC) or administration (NLDR-ADMIN), as a family nurse practitioner (FNP), or as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (PMH-NP). Graduates of the FNP option are eligible to write the national certification examination for advanced professional practice as a family nurse practitioner. Graduates of the PMH-NP (across the lifespan) option are eligible to write the national certification exam for advanced professional practice as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. NLDR-EDUC graduates are eligible to take the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator Exam. Graduates of the NLDR-ADMIN option, with two years of executive nursing experience, are eligible to take the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) exam for certification in Executive Nursing Practice. The MS program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), with the next accreditation review occurring in 2015.

Nursing Graduate Certificates are designed for individuals who have previously acquired a master's or doctoral degree in nursing and wish to expand their practice. Graduate certificate programs are offered in three specialty areas: FNP, PMH-NP, and nursing education (EDUC). The graduate certificate curriculum builds on the student's prior graduate degree in nursing by integrating content from that degree with theory-based advanced practice nursing courses and specialty clinical practice. **To be eligible for either the FNP or PMH-NP graduate certificate programs, the individual must already be certified as a nurse practitioner in another specialty.** The graduate certificate programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), with the next accreditation review occurring in 2025.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the first doctoral degree offered solely at UAA. Study at the doctoral level places primary emphasis upon advanced professional nursing practice, theory, research, and leadership roles in advancing health care delivery systems and the application of research into practice. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) represents the highest degree in nursing practice. Currently, the Post-Master's DNP option is available for those who currently hold an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and who wish to expand their knowledge and skills to interpret research, apply best practices, and incorporate clinical knowledge and leadership skills to influence health care policy. The DNP program at the UAA SON was accredited in September 2016 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. The accreditation was for five years, extending to June 30, 2022 (the next site visit is due Fall 2021).

Current Structure

The [School of Nursing \(SON\)](#) is a department within the [College of Health \(COH\)](#). The College was formed in July 2011 when the College of Health and Social Welfare was restructured. In addition to the COH, other major units at UAA include the College of

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Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and Public Policy, the College of Education, the Community and Technical College, and the College of Engineering.

The SON is one of sixteen academic and research units in the COH. They are listed below:

- Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce
- Center for Human Development (CHD)
- Department of Health, Physical Education, & Recreation (HPER) ○ Department of Health Sciences ○ Department of Human Services ○ Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies ○ Interprofessional Health Sciences Simulation Center ○ Justice Center
- National Resource Center for Alaska Natives
- Occupational Therapy Program ○ Pharmacy ○ Physical Therapy Program ○ School of Allied Health ○ School of Nursing ○ School of Social Work ○ Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI) School of Medical Education

The COH is administered by the Vice Provost of Health Programs, and Dean of the College of Health who reports directly to the Provost. The Director of the School of Nursing is Dr. Carla Hagen. She reports to the Associate Dean of Clinical Health Sciences and Vice Provost/Dean and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school, as well as for planning with the faculty to meet future nursing education needs throughout the State. Assisting the SON Director in the administration of the nursing programs is the Associate Director, Dr. Kristin Lutz.

The SON Graduate Program Council (GPC) is overseen by the Graduate Program Chair and is responsible for the SON graduate programs. The GPC reports to the SON Director and addresses admissions, retention, recruitment, and progression; program assessment; and program curriculum. The SON GPC is composed of faculty teaching graduate courses and 1-2 non-voting student representatives. The Director of the SON assigns council membership.

SECTION II: General Policies

UAA Student Handbook Policies

SON **students** need to be aware of and follow the policies in the [UAA student handbook](#): • Campus safety

- Complaint Procedures – UAA ○ Student misconduct & academic dishonesty ○ Notice of nondiscrimination

- Appropriate academic adjustments & programmatic accommodations for students with disabilities
- Student employment ○ Employee behavior ○ Employee decisions affecting a student
- Complaint Procedures – External Agencies
- Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities
 - Student Code of Conduct ○ Academic Integrity ○ UAA Alcohol Policy ○ Marijuana & Other Illegal Substances Policy ○ Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free Campus ○ Drug Free Schools Notification ○ Possession of Weapons
 - Posting policy ○ Gendered Facility Usage ○ Sex Discrimination & Sexual Misconduct Policy
 - Children & Minors on Campus ○ Service Animals, Assistance Animals & Pets ○ Residential Community Standards & Expectations ○ Academic Policies and Processes

SON Essential Student Behaviors for Admission, Continuation, and Graduation

In addition to the University of Alaska Anchorage Policies, students must abide by the following specifications for academic behaviors and abilities in order to be admitted, to continue, and to graduate from the School of Nursing programs.

Communication

Students must communicate effectively and professionally with other students, staff, and faculty members, professionals, and others relevant to their programs of study. Expression of ideas and feelings must be clear and appropriate for a professional setting. Students must demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback.

Cognitive

Students must be able to adequately reason, analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate in the context of the activities of their programs of study.

Behavioral/Emotional

Students must have the emotional ability to function effectively under stress and adapt to environments that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways

as relevant to their programs of study. Students must possess the emotional ability required for the full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment, and the timely completion of responsibilities in their programs of study. Further, students must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with study

subjects, students, faculty and staff members, and other professionals, under all circumstances, including highly stressful situations. Students must be able to demonstrate empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and appropriately communicate that empathy. Students must acknowledge that values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect their perceptions and relationships with others. Students must be able and willing to examine and change behaviors when they interfere with productive individual or team academic relationships. Students must demonstrate effective and respectful relationships with the diverse academic, professional, and community environments relevant to their programs of study.

Professional Conduct

Students must demonstrate the attributes of compassion, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance. Students must possess the ability to reason morally and conduct their discovery and/or application of knowledge relevant to nursing science in a manner consistent with ethical scientific and scholarly conduct and guidelines for the protection of human subjects. Nursing students must adhere to the [UAA Student Code of Conduct](#), the SON program/course policies, and the [Code of Ethics for Nurses](#).

Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

The School of Nursing is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodations to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for students with disabilities. The SON works closely with [UAA Disability Support Services](#) (DSS) in this process. DSS is the contact point for students with permanent or temporary sensory, physical, or psychological disabilities interested in requesting reasonable accommodations due to the effects of a disability. For more information on accommodations or support, students should contact DSS. Disability Support Services

Rasmuson Hall 105
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone (907) 786-4530 (voice)
Phone (907) 227-9609 (text only)
Fax (907) 786-4531
uaa_dss@alaska.edu

Students at outlying campuses can contact the Disability Support Coordinator at their local campus (usually within the student counseling department).

All students, including students with disabilities, are expected to perform the essential functions of the program, including meeting all program outcomes with reasonable

accommodation. The School of Nursing will work with the student and DSS to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. It is important to note that the School of Nursing is not required to provide requested accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential functions or technical standards of the Program.

SON Policy on Electronic Communication Devices

Cellular phones and audible electronic devices should be turned off during classes, audio conferences, laboratory, and clinical laboratory sessions unless the use of the device is permitted explicitly by the instructor and/or clinical agency. If audible communication devices ring against the existing policies, during scheduled learning experiences, the student will be required to leave the setting and not return for the remainder of the day; absences resulting from violating the policy are treated as unexcused. When this policy creates a special hardship, the student should discuss the problem with his/her instructor or with the Program Chair.

SON Policy for Nursing Mothers

The SON will make every attempt to support students who are breastfeeding their babies. When requested, the SON will provide a private space for students who would like to use a breast pump or to nurse their baby. While a space for pumping/nursing will be provided, the SON policy indicates that students should not bring their infants and/or small children into classes. The space for pumping/nursing should have comfortable seating and a hand cleanser. A "Do Not Disturb" notice will be placed on the door. The SON will not refrigerate or store breast milk.

Students who would like to request a private room to use a breast pump should inform the SON at the beginning of the semester/trimester. Students will be expected to schedule times for breast pumping/nursing in advance to allow staff to arrange for space and to minimize disruptions to staff and faculty activities. Students must ensure that the condition and contents of the room are not disturbed.

This policy applies to students on the Anchorage campus. The SON does not have control over the facilities at clinical agencies. In some cases, the space in facilities outside of Anchorage may be limited. Students will be expected to ensure that breast pumping/nursing does not interfere with their own clinical/educational activities or the clinical/educational activities of any other students.

SON Policy on Transportation to Clinical

Students are required to provide their own transportation to and from campus and assigned clinical agencies. Students assigned to clinical learning experiences on military bases are required to carry identification and provide proof of automobile liability insurance.

SON Policy on Selection of Clinical Experiences

Undergraduate Programs Clinical

Undergraduate students will often register or sign-up for clinical experiences. We make every attempt to honor the sections/experiences that students select; however, there will be times when a student will need to be reassigned to a different clinical agency or when the capacity at a clinical agency has changed. A need to reassign can occur for various reasons related to the student, faculty, or clinical facility. If the assignment was selected using the registration system, then we will use the registration date to select the student to be moved. The last student registered will be reassigned.

Graduate Programs Clinical

Graduate student clinical experiences are program/emphasis specific and will be discussed in Part II of this handbook.

SON Policy on Computer Competencies

Students are required to gain and maintain basic skills in keyboarding, computing, and in using common software programs (e.g., Word and PowerPoint) prior to beginning the clinical nursing major, as well as the use of the UAA email system and Blackboard. Competence in Microsoft Word will enable the student to utilize the word processing software that has been loaded onto the SON computers, located in the nursing labs. The use of UAA email and Blackboard will be required for all nursing courses.

SON Policy on Personal Computer

Access to a personal computer with Internet access is strongly encouraged for all students enrolled in any of the clinical nursing majors. Home computer access is required for those students taking courses that are delivered via distance. UAA has wireless internet available, which allows students to use a personal computer on campus. Students should be aware of computing policies that will be helpful in using your computer and submitting your work without difficulty.

Students should use the current version of Microsoft Office for course work and assignments.

UAA's [IT Services](#) can assist students in obtaining current word processing and other productivity software. Their office can also assist with computer/IT questions. Contact the IT Technical Support Center at:

- 907-786-4646 or 877-633-3888
- uaa.techsupport@alaska.edu

SON Policy on Clinical Simulation

SON students participate in simulated clinical scenarios. Clinical simulation is an important teaching method, which supports student learning in a variety of scenarios and settings. Some scenarios use manikins, and others use standardized patients or

actors. Students may care for the patient and family in a controlled setting where a manikin or an actor reacts to the nursing actions provided (or not provided). Some key aspects of clinical simulation are described below.

- **Course Requirement.** Clinical simulation time is the same as time spent in a clinical agency. An assigned clinical simulation is a required course activity. Students should follow procedures for a missed clinical day if they are ill on the day of an assigned clinical simulation.
- **Recording/observation.** The scenarios may be observed by an instructor, simulation technician, and/or fellow students. The scenarios may be recorded for further viewing and more in-depth critique. The recorded simulation sessions are used only for educational purposes, in the assigned course, during the assigned semester/trimester. Students need to feel secure in their ability to make mistakes and learn. Course faculty will determine the number of guest viewers that will be permitted to observe clinical simulations. The recordings will not be used outside of the course without the express permission of all involved in the simulation.
- **Confidentiality.** You will be expected to keep individual student learning activities confidential, similar to the confidentiality expected regarding patients. It is essential that students do not discuss simulations outside of the assigned group. Do not discuss the patient, the medications, or any of your fellow student's behavior. This is an exercise to apply your learning in an unexpected patient situation. Keep it unexpected for all.

NOTE: Most clinical simulations in the **graduate MS and Certification programs** are done in Anchorage during pre-scheduled intensives.

SON Locker Policy

Lockers and locks are available for students in the HSB in Anchorage to provide additional space for issued lab supplies. Students in the Baccalaureate and AAS programs will be assigned lockers during the early clinical courses when they use the nursing labs frequently. Other nursing students may request a locker/lock, which will be assigned on a space-available basis. Students with lockers must:

- Remove all food items from the locker at the end of each week to prevent rodent infestation.
- Empty the locker and return the lock at the end of the semester.
- If the locker is not emptied and/or the lock is not returned, the stored items will be discarded, and the student account will be charged a fee.

SON Policy on Soliciting Funds, Donations, and Use of the UAA Logo

There may be times when the SON encourages students to approach members of the community to solicit funds or in-kind donations to obtain support for SON-sponsored events (e.g., SON Recognition Ceremony, Student Nurses' Association charity events, or other program activities). If an individual student or group of students is working with a faculty advisor and has received the express permission of the SON, then a student or group of students may use the name and logo of the SON when soliciting funds or in-

kind donations. All funds/items donated for SON activities must be coordinated with a faculty advisor and used for the specific purpose indicated to prospective donors.

If a student is engaged in an activity that has not been requested or endorsed explicitly by the SON (e.g., a class party, student travel or tuition expenses, etc.), then students may not wear a UAA ID badge or patch when approaching members of the community, nor can students use the SON patch, logo, or the name of the SON on a mailing/flyer/document or email without express permission from the Director of the School of Nursing.

SON Policy on Requesting a Letter of Reference from Faculty

There are times when students would like a faculty member to serve as a reference or to write a letter referencing their performance as a student. Before the faculty member can prepare or send the letter, students need to complete the [FERPA Reference Request Form](#). The form must be completed, signed, and received by the faculty member before any student information is released.

SECTION III: Conduct Policies

UAA Student Handbook Policies on Conduct

Students are responsible for reviewing the following Conduct Policies found in the [UAA student handbook](#) for policies: [UAA Student Code of Conduct](#) and the policy on [Academic Honesty and Integrity](#).

SON Professional/Academic Ethics

SON faculty and students will perform in an ethical and legal manner as set forth by the American Nurses' Association (ANA) and the Alaska State Board of Nursing Statutes. SON supports the moral value of caring as a foundation for nursing practice. This ethos of care guides the nurse and nursing student in protecting and enhancing the dignity and well-being of all clients or patients (Holmes & Purdy, 1992; Noddings, 1984). The UAA SON expects all faculty and students to follow the [ANA Code of Ethics](#) and to be informed of the American Nurses' Association Scope and Standards of Practice (2015). Consequences of unprofessional

or unethical behavior on the part of nursing students may result in more serious consequences than recommended by the Dean of Student's office because of the high ethical standards of the nursing profession.

Course work will be provided to help students make ethical decisions. Students will be expected to make a commitment to these ethical standards and sign the necessary ethical documents as required by each clinical facility.

SON Social Media Policy

SON faculty and students will perform in an ethical and legal manner as set forth by the American Nurses' Association (ANA) and the Alaska State Board of Nursing Statutes governing nursing practice.

Purpose

The School of Nursing supports the use of social media to reach audiences important to the University, such as students, prospective students, faculty, and staff. The University presence or participation on social media sites is guided by university policy. This policy applies to School of Nursing students who engage in Internet conversations for school-related purposes or school-related activities such as interactions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA, whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

General Information

As students, you will want to represent the University and the School in a fair, accurate, and legal manner while protecting the brand and reputation of the institution.

When publishing information on social media sites, students should remain cognizant that information may be public for anyone to see and can be traced back to them as an individual. Be aware that you can be held personally and legally responsible for your publicly made opinions and comments, even on personally maintained sites and pages. This not only applies to the confidential information covered by HIPPA and FERPA, but also to any proprietary information from either the University, its community clinical stakeholders, or other organizational partners.

Policy

1. Do not post proprietary information or content about the University, staff, students, clinical facilities, patients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing student.
Do not use copyrighted photos or written content without properly citing the source or gaining permission from the source prior to use. Remember, people's images require permission to use; you may not video record, audio record, or photograph professors or fellow students for personal or social media use without their permission.
2. It is your responsibility to protect confidential, sensitive, and personally identifiable information. Do not discuss your clinical experiences outside of the academic setting and follow HIPAA and FERPA guidelines at all times.
Confidential or personally identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or webpage. Students must not video record, audio record, or photograph patients/clients without written

permission of the patient/client and the facility. Remember, even if you do not post a name or a photo, others may recognize the patient characteristics.

3. Be aware of your association with the University of Alaska Anchorage in online social networks. If you identify yourself as a student, ensure your profile and related content is consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers.

Identify your views as your own when creating a personal site or commenting on other sites. When posting your point of view, you should neither claim nor imply you are speaking on the University of Alaska Anchorage's behalf, or that of our clinical sites and partners, unless you are authorized to do so in writing. We recommend you use your personal email account, rather than your University account or one provided by a community partner, when you create social media accounts.

4. Do not use the University of Alaska Anchorage or School of Nursing or community partner marks, such as logos and graphics, on personal social media sites. Do not use the University of Alaska Anchorage's name, or those of community partners', to promote a product, cause, or political party or candidate. *Use of the School of Nursing marks (logos and graphics) for school-sanctioned events must be approved (posters, flyers, postings) by the administration. Do not use marks of community partners for any reason unless you obtain permission in writing from their Administration.*

5. Adhere to standards of professional conduct at all times when engaging online as a School of Nursing student.

Understand that perception is reality. In online social networks, the lines between public and private, personal, and professional, are blurred. By identifying yourself as a SON student, you are creating perceptions about your expertise and the SON. Ensure that all content associated with you is consistent with your work and with SON's values and standards. Do not use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, or engage in any conduct, such as bullying, that would not be acceptable in the professional workplace. Ultimately, you have sole responsibility for what you post. Be smart about protecting yourself, your and others' privacy, and confidential information.

Consequences:

1. FERPA violations will go to the University for review, while HIPAA violations will be documented and reported to the clinical agency. Students will be subject to all disciplinary actions recommended by the University and/or clinical agency.
2. Students who violate patient/client privacy or share confidential or unprofessional information will be subject to disciplinary action, including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the Program.

3. Students who do not adhere to standards of professional conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Each student is legally responsible for their actions and their individual postings. Students are subject to liability if individual postings are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students are also liable if individual postings include confidential or copyrighted information (music, videos, text, etc.).

SON Policy on Gifts to and From Students

Students are strongly discouraged from accepting gifts from clients and families. Health care agencies have ethical guidelines for their employees regarding the acceptance of gifts, and students should follow these guidelines. Although not strictly forbidden in the [ANA Code of Ethics](#), the concern for professional boundaries, appropriate relationships with clients, and the provision of professional nursing care support the non-acceptance of gifts from clients. Students should consider cultural norms and the unique situation to decide the correct course of action when presented with a gift. Generally, a *thank you* card, a small treat, or token of appreciation is acceptable, but any monetary gift or gift of value should not be accepted.

Gifts to instructors are discouraged using the same ethical principles that guide the student-patient relationship. Appreciation can be expressed to instructors through very small tokens or most appropriately, through *thank you* cards or letters of appreciation, which can be added to faculty evaluation files, which are used for promotion and tenure review for faculty.

SON Policy on Professional Conduct in Clinical Agencies

Students are guests in clinical agencies and are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the facility, to follow the direction of the supervising nurse or preceptor, to engage cooperatively and professionally on a clinical unit, and to follow the direction of the UAA instructor. If problems arise, clinical agencies have the right to ask a student to be removed from the agency.

If a student is asked to be removed from a clinical agency for cause, the following outcomes could occur: program dismissal, course failure, and/or *professional conduct probation**. Examples of unprofessional or unethical behavior may include disruptive behavior, ineffective communication, or any behavior that has the potential to reduce the safety of others or interfere with the educational needs of other students in the clinical setting. The resultant consequence will be based on the severity of the misconduct.

*A student who is placed on *Professional Conduct Probation* is notified that their behavior has been unacceptable, that they must reflect to understand their behavior, seek guidance, and, most importantly, they must change the behaviors associated with the documented infraction(s). If the behavior does not change,

and there are additional infractions of a similar nature, then the student could face course failure and/or program dismissal.

Nursing students must adhere to the [UAA Student Code of Conduct](#), the SON program/course policies, and the [Code of Ethics for Nurses](#). They must also practice with general knowledge of the nursing profession's Scope and Standards of Practice (2015) covered in introductory nursing courses.

SON Policy on Substance Use

On April 21, 1989, the University of Alaska Board of Regents adopted Policy 04.02.040 concerning a drugfree workplace. The following points will further explain the position of the School of Nursing on this important issue.

- The University recognizes drug dependency as a major health problem. The University also recognizes drug abuse as a potential safety and security problem.
- Students are expected and required to report to class in appropriate mental and physical condition. It is our intent and obligation to provide a drug-free, healthy, safe, and secure learning environment.
- Any substance misuse, even off-campus and outside clinical settings, can be indicative of

problems with specific relevance to the field of nursing that the SON has a professional and an ethical obligation to address with the student.

- The manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal, controlled substances on university premises or clinical sites is absolutely prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

In addition, students must, if they are also employed by UAA, abide by the terms of the above policy and report any conviction under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring on or off university premises while conducting University business. (A report of a conviction is mandated by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988).

According to Alaska Statute 08.68.270, the Alaska Board of Nursing "may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a person who ... (11) has prescribed or dispensed an opioid in excess of the maximum dosage authorized under AS 08.68.705; or (12) has procured, sold, prescribed, or dispensed drugs in violation of a law, regardless of whether there has been a criminal action or harm to the patient." Drug abuse by nursing professionals is a concern to the licensing authority in the State of Alaska, even if there is not a direct impact on patient care. Any student with a history of misusing drugs or intoxicants should contact the Alaska Board of Nursing to determine if their history will impact their ability to obtain a nursing license.

Substance Abuse involving Academic Misconduct. When substance abuse involves academic misconduct, then the Dean of Student's office determines the consequences/sanctions. In these cases, the student commits an infraction as defined in the [Code of Conduct](#). The SON seeks to maintain the confidentiality of the results of

drug screening tests. Confidential information will only be shared if it is relevant to a university investigation. The Dean of Students and the Director of the SON will determine the need to include confidential health information in a university investigation into academic misconduct.

Substance Abuse involving Unprofessional Behavior. Introductory nursing courses include content that prepares students to understand the basic principles of the nursing role. They learn about the confidentiality of patient information, patient safety, and the ethical expectations of the profession. The Scope and Standards of Practice (2015) and the [Code of Ethics for Nurses](#) are two key sources that document the basic principles of the nursing role. If a student has engaged in unprofessional behavior that is inconsistent with the principles they have been taught, there may be sanctions from the SON above those recommended by the University. For example, a clinical agency can mandate that a nursing student cannot return their agency until the student participates in a period of remediation. The student cannot participate in a clinical experience until the clinical agency accepts them. In some cases, a student may not be accepted ever again at a site where they failed a drug screening test. If they live in a city where sites are limited, the student may not be able to complete the nursing program in that community.

When a student has engaged in substance misuse that includes unprofessional behavior, then the Director of the SON will determine the consequence (e.g., program dismissal, professional conduct probation, no consequence, etc.).

While the University, the Alaska Board of Nursing, and the School of Nursing have adopted strong policies that prohibit the misuse of substances and intoxicants, the SON faculty and administration recognize that substance misuse is a confidential health condition that requires treatment and follow-up.

SON Policy on Drug Screening

Nursing students are entering a profession where they will be handling controlled substances and, therefore, will be subject to drug screening. No one should take any controlled medication without a prescription. Do not ever take a medication that was prescribed to another. Marijuana can stay in the system for months, yet the need to take a drug test may come up with little notice.

To attend clinical experiences at some agencies, students will be required to undergo periodic drug screening tests on or before the first clinical day. The test may be at the student's expense. Students should be aware of the following:

Avoid Poppy Seeds before Drug Screening. There have been several instances when students ingested poppy seeds (e.g., Costco's poppy seed muffins) prior to a drug screening test that resulted in a positive test. When this happens, the individual must go to a commercial lab for further testing (at the individual's expense). The test can cost \$75.00, and it can take an additional 3 to 5 days to obtain the results. We recommend the following:

Avoid any product containing poppy seeds for four (4) days prior to a drug screening test. This includes poppy seeds contained in bagels, muffins, breads, cakes, and poppy confectionary bars.

If a drug screening test is positive and the student does not have a verifiable, current prescription to justify the positive test, then the student will be denied access to the clinical setting and withdrawn from clinical courses for at minimum the remainder of the current semester.

Policy and Procedure for Suspected Misuse of Drugs or other Intoxicants by Students

Signs of substance misuse. Faculty will be alert for the following behaviors that may indicate substance abuse by a student:

- Change in behavior.
- Chronic lateness.
- Missed assignments.
- Erratic or uneven performance in clinical or classroom settings.
- Chronic alibiing (excuse-making).
- Possible odor of alcohol on the breath.

Faculty seek assistance. A faculty member who suspects substance abuse by a student is advised to discuss the behavior that led to the suspicion with the Program Chair/SON Administrator.

The student conference. When a student has a positive result from a drug screening test and/or the faculty member suspects substance misuse, then the SON will initiate a conference with the student. At the conference:

- The suspicion or evidence of substance abuse will be conveyed to the student.
- The potential and professional consequences of substance abuse will be conveyed to the student.
- The student will be given the opportunity to respond verbally and in writing.
- Options for substance abuse treatment or, if indicated, other forms of counseling will be discussed with the student.

A summary of each conference with the student regarding the possible or actual substance abuse will be written and kept confidential. The SON representative and the student shall sign the original. The student's signature shall be construed to mean that the conference occurred and that the summary accurately describes the conference content and outcomes.

Procedure When Student Appears Under Influence

Procedure when a student appears to be under the influence of a chemical substance or intoxicant:

- The instructor/preceptor/administrator will confront the student with the suspicion that s/he is under the influence of a chemical substance (drugs or alcohol). The instructor/preceptor/administrator will share the specific observations that led to the suspicion with the student.

- If the student admits that s/he is under the influence of a chemical substance, s/he will be required to leave the situation immediately.
- If the student denies being under the influence of a chemical substance and the evidence is strong (e.g., the odor of alcohol on breath or use of a drug observed by an instructor, administrator, preceptor, a staff member or another student), the student will be immediately advised to undergo voluntary toxicology screening. Refusal to undergo a toxicology screening will result in the student being required to leave the situation immediately with referral to SON administration for determination of consequences (e.g., the ability of the student to participate in clinical coursework could be impacted).
- If the student denies being under the influence of a drug and the evidence is unclear, the student will be allowed to remain in the setting unless, in the judgment of the instructor's/preceptor/administrator, safety would be compromised.
- When substance abuse is suspected at the clinical site, the instructor/preceptor should consult with the manager/administrator at the clinical agency for local policies to dictate the immediate course of action. Prior to the next class/clinical day, the student will be required to meet with the instructor/SON Administration to discuss the behavior that led to the suspicion and to develop a plan for preventing similar behavior in the future

If a student has been under the influence of a controlled substance in a clinical setting, the student will not be permitted to return until a satisfactory plan for preventing future occurrences has been developed and successfully implemented. They may be required to submit evidence of treatment.

Student Ride Home When Under Influence

Students suspected of substance abuse who are required to leave, whether leaving campus or the clinical setting, will not be permitted to drive themselves home. The process for ensuring that the student arrives home safely will be as follows:

- The student should be monitored and not left alone while waiting for transportation.
- Call 911 if the student becomes difficult to arouse or confused ○ The student should be encouraged to call someone to come to drive him/her home.
- If there is no one to call, then the student should call a taxicab or ride service to drive him/her home.
- If the student cannot pay for a cab/ride service, the instructor/preceptor/administrator will pay the cab fare in advance. The receipt for the "in-advance" cab fare should be turned in to the School of Nursing Office Manager for petty cash reimbursement.
- If the above options are not feasible, the instructor/preceptor shall contact the Program Chair or SON Director for assistance.

Student's Continued Presence in Clinical Setting

A judgment that the student cannot continue to practice in the clinical setting is justified if any of the following factors exist:

- The clients to whom the student is providing care may be harmed by that care.
- The student is disrupting the clinical environment for others.
- The student requires close supervision by the instructor/preceptor that other students and/or patients cannot be adequately managed.
- The clinical agency does not accept the student.

Plan for Preventing Future Occurrences with Confirmed Substance Abuse

The plan for preventing future occurrences will include the following elements:

- Student is required to withdraw from all clinical courses for at least one semester/trimester.
- Student is advised to seek a substance abuse evaluation by a qualified addictions counselor.
- Student is advised to comply with counseling recommendations resulting from a substance abuse evaluation.
- Student is advised to meet with the Alcohol, Drug, and Wellness Educator in the Dean of Student's office to prepare a Remediation Plan.
- Students must agree to undergo an immediate toxicology screening when requested to do so "for cause" in the clinical setting. "For cause" is defined as exhibiting behaviors suggestive of being under the influence of a chemical substance.

The student will be responsible for all costs incurred, including the cost of the substance abuse evaluation, recommended counseling, and required toxicology screening.

Refusal to engage in a remediation/treatment plan could result in the student not being accepted for placement by clinical agencies rendering the student unable to complete the nursing program.

SECTION IV: Clinical Requirements

Documentation of Health Status

Students wishing to enroll in clinical nursing courses are required to provide documentation of having met the health requirements consistent with the recommended vaccines for healthcare workers, according to the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC). Additional requirements from the clinical agencies we use also need to be met. Please note, that requirements may change, in which case students will be notified by UAA email. The following are current requirements that must be met before the first clinical experience:

Initial Requirements

- **Hepatitis B** – immunity If you don't have documented evidence of a complete HepB vaccine series, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to hepatitis B (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination) then you should
 - Get the 3-dose series (dose #1 now, #2 in 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2).
 - Get anti-HBs serologic tested 1–2 months after dose #3.

If it has been **less than five years** since the completion of the three-dose hepatitis B series, you should:

- Have a hepatitis B titer drawn
 - If the titer comes back positive (immune), then submit official documentation. You have met the requirement.
 - If the titer comes back negative (not immune), then
 - Start a second hepatitis B series of three additional vaccine doses
 - Dose #4 – immediately
 - Dose #5 – One month later
 - Dose #6 – Five months after dose five
 - 1-2 months after dose six, receive a titer
 - If the titer is positive (you are immune), then submit official documentation. You have met the requirement.
 - If the titer is negative after six total doses, you are considered to be a non-responder and not immune. Submit official documentation. No further hepatitis immunizations or titers are needed.

Although you must accomplish the following:

- Healthcare Provider Counseling. Those who have not demonstrated immunity must see the Compliance Coordinator in the Anchorage Student Affairs Office. You will be referred to a health care provider with a specific form to guide the provider. You will discuss precautions required in the clinical setting, as well as any further treatment or testing. You should also understand any prophylaxis, follow up for bloodborne exposure. The form must be signed by the provider and returned to the Compliance Coordinator in Student Affairs.

If it has been **more than five years** since you completed the three-dose hepatitis B series, you should:

- Receive one dose (4th dose) of hepatitis B vaccine followed by a hepatitis B titer 1-2 months later
 - If titer comes back positive (immune), then submit official documentation of the results. You have met the requirement.
 - If titer comes back negative (not immune), then
 - ✦ Receive dose #5 right away, and
 - ✦ Receive dose #6 five months after receiving dose #5
 - ✦ Receive a hepatitis B titer 1-2 months after dose #6
 - If titer comes back positive (immune), then submit official documentation of the results. **You have met the requirement.**
 - If titer comes back negative after six total doses, you are considered to be a nonresponder and are not immune. Submit official documentation.

No further hepatitis immunizations or titers are needed. Although you must accomplish the following:

- ✦ Healthcare Provider Counseling. Those who have not demonstrated immunity must see the Compliance Coordinator in the Anchorage Student Affairs Office. You will be referred to a health care provider with a specific form to guide the provider. You will discuss precautions required in the clinical setting, as well as any further treatment or testing. You should also understand any prophylaxis, follow up for bloodborne exposure. The form must be signed by the provider and returned to the Compliance Coordinator in Student Affairs.
- **Annual Influenza (Flu)** vaccination must be documented.
- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)** immunity must be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - MMR 2 shot series
 - Blood test showing immunity to Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella
- **Varicella (Chickenpox)** immunity must be demonstrated by blood test **OR** documentation of the varicella two-shot immunization series.
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)** immunity requires proof of one dose of the Tdap vaccine as an adult with a booster every ten years thereafter.
 - *Pregnant healthcare workers need to get a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy.*
- **HIV Test** – students, provide documentation of having had an HIV test within six months of starting nursing classes (results are not required and should not be turned in).

Students must also meet the [CDC requirements for tuberculosis screening](#).

- **Tuberculosis** testing or documentation of freedom from active tuberculosis must be demonstrated by an initial negative 2-step tuberculin skin test (TST) (also known as the Purified Protein Derivative or PPD test) OR the Quantiferon Gold TB Test.

Recurring Requirements

- **Annual Tuberculosis Skin Testing (or PPD)** must demonstrate tuberculin status.
 - ✦ TST/PPD is negative no further action needed
 - ✦ TST/PPD is positive, then the following is required:
- Proof of negative chest x-ray followed by an annual health examination by an approved health provider (medical doctor, osteopath, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant).

- **10-year booster Td** (Tetanus, Diphtheria) a booster is required every ten years after the initial vaccine (must remain current throughout the nursing program)
- **Annual Influenza vaccination**

Declining Immunizations

Clinical agencies develop and enforce policies regarding required vaccinations that are applied to all faculty and students working in their facilities. The clinical agency experience is a necessary component of the nursing program, and all of the immunizations listed are required. Some agencies will allow students to decline an influenza vaccine; others will not. If you have strong feelings about immunizations, you should check with the program chair or track coordinator EACH SEMESTER before registration so you can register for a section or request placement in an agency that will accept you without an influenza vaccine. If the clinical agency accepts you without the influenza vaccine, the agency may require certain accommodations (e.g., signing a declination form, wearing a mask whenever providing care to a patient, avoiding certain specialty areas/patient groups, etc.).

Clinical agencies expect that our faculty and students will advise/teach their patients in accordance with current best practices. In other words: *Faculty and students must advise patients consistent with current CDC immunization recommendations.*

Submission Deadlines for Clinical Requirements

1. The deadline for submission of health requirements documentation is:
 - July 15 for fall courses.
 - November 15 for spring courses
 - March 15 for summer courses.
2. Forms are available on the [SON website](#)
3. To be considered valid, health requirements must extend through the entire semester; health requirements that expire midway through the semester are considered as non-current.
4. Students for whom the submission deadline imposes undue hardship may file a "[Request for Extension of Deadline](#)" to the Program Chair. A form for this purpose is located on the SON website under Current Students ... Clinical Requirements. Such requests must be filed at least one month prior to the deadline (shown above). If approved, a temporary extension of the submission deadline is granted. However, all health status documentation requirements must be met prior to the student actually beginning clinical learning experiences (including clinical orientation).
5. Students who do not meet the specified deadline and who do not have an approved deadline extension will be administratively dropped from clinical nursing courses and will be required to provide the necessary documentation before re-enrolling. Seats in particular clinical courses/sections will not be held for students who are

administratively dropped because of failure to meet documentation submission deadlines.

6. Students may be able to obtain the necessary immunizations or tests to meet health requirements through the UAA Student Health Center (or possibly the distance campus Student Health Center if there is one available) during the summer months, even if they are not enrolled in summer course work. An additional fee may apply. If unable to obtain immunizations on campus, then the immunizations must be obtained from a private clinic.

Documentation Requirements

Transition to a new tracking system. Students should be advised that the SON is transitioning to the Typhon system to track clinical requirements. You will be informed whether you will use the new web-based system. In the meantime, students will use the SON Health Requirements and Compliance site in Blackboard to submit health requirements. When submitting health requirements online, acceptable documents include:

- The School of Nursing Health Requirements Checklist signed or stamped by the health provider (form on the SON website) ○ Official Alaska Immunization Record Card.
- Copies of blood test results. OR ○ Copies of actual health records signed by the provider

Basic Life Support

Students must provide documentation of current certification in infant, pediatric, and adult basic life support (BLS), one- and two-man rescue and automatic external defibrillator (AED). Certification as a BLS instructor is acceptable. Heart Saver courses and American Red Courses for the general public are not acceptable. Courses approved by the American Heart Association are preferred.

- Certification must remain current throughout the entire semester.
- Submission deadlines are:
 - July 15 for fall courses.
 - November 15 for spring courses
 - March 15 for summer courses

If needed, a “Request for Extension of Deadline” may be submitted. However, even if approved, such extensions are only temporary and may not extend into the time that the student is actually participating in course-related clinical learning experiences. Go to your advisor to complete the Request for Extension form. Upon request, documentation will be returned to graduating students at the end of the final semester of course work.

Criminal Background Checks

General Information and Purpose

Students enrolled in the School of Nursing (SON) programs either have or are seeking a professional license as a registered nurse or as an advanced practice nurse. In the interest of patient safety, State Boards of Nursing are guided by statutes and regulations that govern the licensure requirements for nurses.

The State of Alaska has a list of barrier crimes that will impact a student's ability to obtain a nursing license or prevent a student from pursuing a nursing degree.

Nursing students provide care to vulnerable individuals in clinical agencies that must ensure the safety of patients. Therefore, the criminal background check is required for two reasons:

- To identify students who have committed crimes that could preclude their eligibility for a nursing license or the pursuit of a nursing degree.
- To meet the requirement of clinical agencies that provide clinical learning experiences for students.

The background checks must be reported to the School of Nursing prior to beginning any clinical course. Students should note the following policy:

POLICY: Students are not eligible to participate in clinical courses until the SON receives the provisional approval of the criminal background check from the State of Alaska.

Failure to Obtain a Criminal Background Check

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the criminal background check as directed by the School of

Nursing. If the provisional approval is not available, prior to clinical orientation and/or clinical activities, the student will be administratively dropped from the course and may be dismissed from the nursing program. If there are extenuating circumstances as to the reason the background check was not completed on time, a student may appeal to re-enroll in a future semester, being placed on a waiting list to take the course when space is available.

Students with concerns about infractions/crimes that may impact their ability to attend SON clinical experiences should contact their Program Chair. Students with concerns about their eligibility to obtain/maintain licensure as a registered nurse or advanced practice nurse should contact the [Alaska Board of Nursing](#).

Results of Ongoing Criminal Background Checks

Criminal background check information will be reported to the SON on an ongoing basis by the State of Alaska.

- If a student commits a crime while in the nursing program, that crime will be reported.
- If a student has committed a felony or other serious crime, the

student will be dropped from clinical courses and may be dismissed from the nursing program.

- If a student commits a crime while enrolled in the nursing program and, as a result, is denied access to clinical agencies, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Health Insurance and Students' Illness or Injury

It is strongly recommended that students maintain personal health insurance throughout their enrollment in nursing programs. Students can visit [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to determine their options for an insurance plan through the federal government.

Some clinical agencies require that students present documentation of health insurance in effect for the duration of the clinical experience. Students will be notified of this requirement with sufficient time to purchase and provide documentation of health insurance.

Expenses incurred as a result of injuries or illnesses sustained or contracted during clinical learning experiences are not covered by either the University or the clinical agency. Such expenses are the responsibility of the student.

Students are encouraged to go to their local Student Health Center (if available), or their personal healthcare provider for minor injuries or illnesses sustained during clinical learning experiences. An assigned clinical agency cannot mandate that a student goes to their emergency department. Be advised that if a student is assessed and treated at any healthcare clinic/hospital, the student (and/or the personal health insurance carrier) will be responsible for the costs incurred, even if the injury/illness occurred as a result of clinical activities.

Professional Liability Insurance

All students enrolled in clinical courses are covered by student professional liability insurance through the University of Alaska Statewide Risk Management. The cost of this insurance is covered by fees for the clinical courses.

Student Identification Badges

All UAA nursing students are required to conspicuously wear a UAA School of Nursing student identification badge at all times in any clinical area. One identification badge will be issued to each student in the first clinical course. Validation stickers will be provided to indicate the date of the current semester. The UAA SON identification badge, with a current validation sticker, is required for entry into any facility as part of any UAA sponsored/sanctioned event or course. Students should contact the SON front office assistant to report a lost badge or to turn in a damaged badge. A fee will be charged to replace a damaged or lost student identification badge.

Attire Guidelines

Student appearance is a reflection of the individual and the SON. A professional, neat, and well-groomed appearance must be maintained during clinical experiences. All students must adhere to the dress code in the assigned clinical agency, to include displaying the UAA student identification badge at all times.

Students should also be aware of the UAA SON attire guidelines and adhere to them as directed by program/course faculty. The UAA attire guidelines include:

- For undergraduate prelicensure students only – clean, pressed hunter green scrubs
- For undergraduate prelicensure students only - a separate dress code may be required for clinical experiences in the community (outside of the hospital) that includes khaki slacks, and a hunter green golf-style collared SON cotton shirt.
- A white laboratory coat (when required by the clinical agency or for a specific program/course), fingertip length, with a UAA SON patch sewn onto the left sleeve, centered two (2) inches below the shoulder seam. The lab coat should be worn over street clothes (not jeans) when visiting a clinical agency.
- Students must wear the UAA SON name badge at all times in a visible location whenever a student is engaging in a clinical learning activity at the clinical agency. The name badge should be visible on either the uniform, lab coat, or personal attire, whichever attire is required at the agency.
- Appropriate footwear. Tennis shoes and open sandals are not considered appropriate footwear.
- Hair should be clean and arranged neatly. Long hair should be pulled back and secured.
- Beards/mustaches must be short and neatly trimmed.
- Nails should be kept clean and short. Nail polish, if worn, should be light-colored or neutral. Artificial nails are not allowed.
- Students should not attend clinical using extreme styles of dress, hairdos, and/or makeup.
- Tattoos should be unobtrusive in the clinical setting. Tattoos of a nature that could be found offensive to others must be covered while in clinical. (Note that some clinical agencies require that all tattoos be covered)
- Jewelry should be limited to small post-type non-dangling earrings and rings that do not pose a safety risk to the student or patient. Students should keep in mind that rings with stones may be difficult to keep sufficiently clean as bacteria may be harbored in the settings.
- Strong scents (e.g., perfumes, colognes) are not allowed in clinical in consideration for those with sensitivities and allergies.
- Be aware of halitosis and maintain good oral hygiene; breath mints are handy if you've been eating things like food with garlic; our patients are very sensitive to odors when not feeling well.
- Wearing jewelry on other exposed body sites may pose a safety risk to the student and/or patient and, therefore, should be removed. Some clinical

agencies require that facial piercings be removed or replaced so that they will be unobtrusive.

Expressive body art (piercings and tattoos) and jewelry can project a personal message or value that may negatively impact the ability to establish a therapeutic relationship with a patient.

Clinical Orientation

The Consortium of Alaska State Healthcare Educators (CASHE) is comprised of educators from clinical agencies in the state where students are assigned for clinical experiences. Nursing students are working in an industry governed by numerous regulations. For a healthcare facility to be in regulatory compliance, students at all levels engaging in clinical experiences must participate in an orientation, which includes specific components. The CASHE Clinical Orientation has been developed to meet the following objectives.

1. Demonstrate professionalism.
2. Follow agency-specific policies.
3. Maintain patient and personal safety.
4. Engage in proper clinical communication.
5. Engage in effective clinical activities.
6. Maintain confidentiality and security of patient information.
7. Show sensitivity and respect for all.

The CASHE Clinical orientation includes modules on the patient and personal safety, HIPAA, blood-borne pathogens, and SON policies. The orientation is a standardized self-paced module for all clinical agencies and all clinical students. The self-study module is available on the Blackboard site: **SON Health Requirements and Compliance** (The BB site should be visible when you log on to BB, along with your courses – if not, notify your faculty). Students cannot attend any clinical experience until the CASHE orientation is complete.

The CASHE Clinical Orientation is an annual requirement once clinicals start.

Medication Administration

All students must exercise caution when administering medications. Students must adhere to both SON and clinical agency policies.

UAA SON policy states that prelicensure nursing students (BS and AAS) require supervision by a registered nurse when administering medications in the clinical setting. Supervision will be accomplished by either the clinical instructor or a staff RN according to agency policy.

UAA SON policy states that all prelicensure students must adhere to the following standards.

- a. All injectable medications will be verified by a registered nurse before the medication is administered.
- b. All high-risk medications (e.g., insulin and anticoagulants) will be independently doublechecked by two registered nurses before the medication is administered.
- c. A registered nurse must supervise all direct IV push medications, verifying the dosage, and accompanying the student to the bedside to supervise the administration of the medication.
- d. Student nurses will never administer or document the administration of high-risk medications: IV antineoplastic agents, IV insulin infusions, opioid infusions, epidural medications, IV anticoagulants, thrombolytics, and magnesium sulfate continuous infusions.
- e. Students must understand the policy of their assigned agency regarding the administration of controlled substances.

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

Exposure Determination

Persons with potential for exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens include:

- Nursing students ○ Nursing faculty
- Persons emptying waste containers or handling contaminated waste

Tasks and activities with risk for exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens include:

- Finger-stick, blood glucose monitoring practice ○ Practice with injections ○ Breaking of ampules ○ Suturing
- Handling any sharp items

Gloves are the required personal protective equipment (PPE) for these activities.

Methods of Compliance ○ Universal precautions will be taught to AAS and BS students early in the first semester of the nursing lab prior to any practice or handling of blood or body fluids. All UAA nursing students will practice universal precautions at all times in the lab and/or clinical setting.

- Puncture resistant, leak-proof containers must be used for disposal of all sharp items, including needles and glass. The UAA SON will provide containers in the SON labs or as needed by instructors for student activities.
- Needles used for practice will have protective sheaths or guards. Needles will be used only when required for the practice of key nursing skills and will be disposed of in designated sharps containers.
- Non-latex gloves will be worn at all times by students or faculty when there is any risk of exposure to blood or body fluids. Gloves are available in the SON if they are needed for student activities.
- If blood or body fluid is spilled on any surface, it will be cleaned as soon as possible with disinfectant soap and water by an individual wearing the

appropriate protective garb and equipment. ○ Hands are to be washed immediately after removing gloves that have had contact with blood or body fluids.

- Non-sharp contaminated waste (used gloves, alcohol swabs, cotton, gauze, etc.) will be disposed of in regular trash cans, which will be emptied using Universal Precautions.
- Full sharps containers will be disposed of through local agencies that are in compliance with OSHA regulations. Sharps containers will be placed in a large red container, and the contracted outside agency notified when full.

Protective Equipment

Students must follow clinical agency policies regarding the use of PPE (including protective eyewear) when in clinical settings where exposure to body fluids is possible.

Post-Exposure Follow-Up

Immediate steps to take in the event of suspected exposure to body fluids:

- Apply first aid or arrange for emergency assistance (911) if needed. Allow affected persons to self-administer first aid to him/herself if possible to reduce the potential for causing secondary infections. Always follow universal precautions when administering first aid.
- Allow a small amount of controlled bleeding, if wounded, being careful to capture fluids in a safe manner.
- All potentially contaminated material must be stored in red biohazard bags with the words “Biohazard” labeled on the bag or container. Refer to disposal guidelines for biohazards.
- Thoroughly wash the wound with disinfectant soap and running warm water. ○ After immediate medical needs are attended, assume that you have incurred a true exposure and seek immediate post-exposure care from a qualified provider. Students are encouraged to go to the Student Health Center, or the local campus health center (if available).
- The cost of health care for injuries or illnesses sustained or contracted during clinical learning experiences is not covered by either the University or the health facility; such costs are the responsibility of the student. Health insurance at relatively low cost can be purchased through the University. UAA employees should contact Environmental Health and Safety at 786-1335 for further advice and action.

Communication of Hazard

- For students: UAA faculty will inform students in the first semester of the nursing skills lab of the hazards of exposure to blood and body fluids, including the potential for contaminated injury with sharps, whether in the lab or the clinical setting.
- UAA nursing faculty involved in exposure should complete the UAA Needle stick Mandatory Report Form within two working days (obtain a form from faculty).

Information and Training ○ The UAA School of Nursing has in place a mandatory training for all students and faculty, to be completed annually, which includes prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens, body fluids and other biohazards and hazardous materials.

- Documentation of completion of this training by each student and faculty person is maintained in the School of Nursing at UAA.

Extended Sites ○ UAA students and faculty in extended nursing school sites outside of Anchorage will complete the UAA Needle Stick Mandatory Report Form and will be referred to the emergency room or physician of their choice for appropriate follow-up of the exposure.

Latex Allergy

UAA School of Nursing programs requires students to participate in activities in skill laboratories and in clinical agencies where latex and other potentially allergenic substances are common components of many medical supplies (gloves, airways, intravenous tubing, syringes, stethoscopes catheters, bandages, etc.). Both the SON learning laboratories and clinical agencies in the community maintain policies and procedures for patients and health care workers who are allergic/sensitive to substances in the environment (e.g., latex, iodine, etc.). The SON has an allergy/sensitivity policy that provides guidelines for the prevention, identification, and management of allergic reactions to latex among nursing students and faculty). Faculty and students should be familiar with existing policies and immediately report any problems he/she may have in a learning lab or at a clinical training site related to an allergic reaction. It will not be possible for UAA or any clinical setting to remove every allergen from the environment. Signs advising of the potential exposure to latex are posted on the skills lab doors.

Natural latex products are manufactured from fluid derived from the rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*. Latex proteins and chemicals used in the processing of the rubber product have been determined to cause allergic reactions. A wide variety of products contain latex, including medical supplies, protective gloves, and many household items (balloons, elastic on clothing, diapers, rubber bands, plastic storage bags, etc.). Latex proteins fastened to the powder in powdered gloves can become airborne when the gloves are changed, resulting in inhalation as well as contact exposure to the latex proteins. Most individuals who have contact with latex household products have no health problems related to their use. However, reports of work-related allergic reactions to latex or chemicals used in the manufacture of latex have increased in recent years, especially among health care workers who frequently use latex gloves to prevent exposure to infectious organisms.

Individuals with allergies to certain foods (particularly avocado, potato, banana, tomato, chestnuts, kiwi, and papaya) are believed to be at increased risk for developing a latex allergy. Several types of synthetic rubber gloves are available which do not release the proteins that cause true latex allergies.

The SON will attempt to minimize the exposure of students and faculty to latex by purchasing non-latex gloves for use in the nursing lab. Students and faculty, however, may experience exposure in clinical facilities that still utilize latex gloves.

If an allergy is suspected, it is recommended students see their personal health care provider for a complete evaluation. Those determined to be allergic to latex should wear a medical alert bracelet, carry an “Epinephrine Kit” (Epi-Pen), and notify their instructor prior to beginning their lab courses.

Purpose of this Policy ○ Educate nursing students and faculty about the sources, types, and signs and symptoms of reactions to latex. ○ Provide recommendations for the prevention and management of latex reactions and allergy. ○ Provide references for further information about latex allergy.

Implement Latex Precautions in UAA SON Skills Labs ○ Purchase only low-allergen materials and powder-free gloves to the extent possible. ○ Post signs in all SON skills labs warning of the presence of latex.

- Ensure information is available in skills labs that describe the types, causes, and management of latex reactions
- Assess anyone with symptoms of latex reaction, follow the management guidelines, and refer for prompt, medical treatment as appropriate.
- Maintain rapid absorbing, over-the-counter antihistamine (diphenhydramine/Benadryl), and offer to anyone who shows signs of an allergic reaction to latex. Do not allow an individual who has taken the diphenhydramine to drive home or to a medical facility.
- Track and evaluate all latex reactions and update policies with the goal of reducing future incidents.

Hand Care Protocol

Utilizing a proper hand care protocol will decrease the risk of skin irritation and the development of contact dermatitis due to contact with latex.

Hand washing:

- Wash hands thoroughly with appropriate hand soap or cleansing agent
- Rinse thoroughly to remove residual soap (if applicable)
- Dry hands appropriately by gently patting (if applicable)

Lotions ○ Use appropriate hand lotions, preferably those provided in the lab/clinical facility

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- Products containing mineral oil, petroleum or lanolin should not be used when wearing latex gloves

Procedures for Students ○ Utilize the proper hand care protocol in both lab and clinical settings ○ Monitor self for the signs and symptoms of irritant contact dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis or latex protein allergy ○ Inform your clinical instructor should you experience any of these signs or symptoms.

- Follow the management recommendations should you develop the signs and symptoms of chemical or latex reactions
- Read latex allergy policies in your assigned clinical facilities and follow agency guidelines

Selected References for Further Information

[American Latex Allergy Association](#)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, (800) 356-4674
"NIOSH Alert: Preventing Allergic Reactions to Natural Rubber Latex in the Workplace." June 1997 (request publication number 97-135).

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/97-135/>

NIOSH Publications and Products "Latex Allergy a Prevention Guide"

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/98-113/>

American Nurses Association, (800) 637-0323

"Latex Allergy: Protect Yourself and Your Patients" (request item number WP-7).

Unusual Occurrences

Philosophy

Clinical agencies are required to develop Patient Safety Systems, where staff works together to eliminate complacency, promote mindfulness, and to prioritize events, hazards, and vulnerabilities in their systems. The goal is to protect patients, improve systems, and prevent further harm.

Unusual occurrence reporting provides opportunities for students, faculty, and institution/agency staff to identify and prevent potentially dangerous situations in the clinical setting. They also present a learning opportunity for individuals involved in the occurrence.

The role of the faculty member is to promote and facilitate student learning. Additionally, the faculty member bears responsibility for protecting clients from harm. When a conflict

between the two responsibilities exists, the protection of the client/patient takes precedence over the responsibility of teaching the student.

Faculty members create an environment that encourages students involved in unusual occurrences to report those occurrences and participate in analysis and planning to prevent future occurrences of a similar nature. It is the joint responsibility of the student and faculty member to demonstrate professional accountability in reporting unusual occurrences and in implementing the policies and procedures of the clinical institution/agency and the UAA SON regarding unusual occurrences.

Program Chairs have several responsibilities regarding unusual occurrences: to review occurrences, to track occurrences, and to work with program faculty to implement corrective actions.

Purposes

The purposes of this policy are to:

- Provide a mechanism for reporting unusual occurrences according to the policies and procedures of the institution/agency in which UAA nursing students gain clinical experiences.
- Document a safety or environmental hazard that may result in injury, damage, or loss to a client or an institution/agency.
- Preserve evidence in the event of legal action against the student and/or University.
 - Provide a basis for counseling the student involved in the unusual occurrence.
- Allow for tracking of unusual occurrences to recognize patterns of individual behaviors or system/process limitations
- Facilitate counseling, remediation, and decision-making related to unusual occurrences regarding student progression within the nursing program.
- Facilitate the implementation of corrective actions to foster a safe environment for patients, students, faculty, and staff.

Definition

An unusual occurrence is:

- Any situation that actually or potentially results in injury to persons or damage to property in the clinical settings.
- Any situation involving a student that is not congruent with the operational or safety standards of the clinical agency.

Examples of Unusual Occurrences (the following list not

- exhaustive)**
- Medication errors (including errors involving lateness, omission or commission)
 - Treatment errors
 - Patient falls or injuries
 - Student injuries - or potentially harmful events
 - Instructor injuries

- Equipment damage
- Administrative errors
- Errors that may be "remedied" within the institution by obtaining a "covering" physician's order

Applies to the Following People ○ Students engaged in

clinical practice within the context of their studies.

- Faculty members performing within the context of their UAA employment

Procedure for Unusual Occurrences Involving Students

When an unusual occurrence involving a student of the UAA SON is identified by the student, preceptor, or the faculty member, the following steps should be carried out.

1. The student and faculty member (and/or preceptor, if applicable) shall immediately implement the policy of the institution/agency regarding unusual occurrences.
2. Within 24 hours following the incident, the student and instructor (and preceptor, if applicable) shall jointly complete the UAA SON Unusual Occurrence Form located on Blackboard, Program site, Forms folder.
 - a. The original form shall be forwarded through the Course Coordinator, Program Chair to the Director of the SON and retained by the Director of SON indefinitely
3. Prior to the next clinical day, the supervising faculty member shall review the form to determine whether a pattern of unusual occurrences is developing.
 - a. If it is apparent that such a pattern is developing, the supervising faculty member, the student, and the Program Chair shall meet to:
 - i. Develop a plan for interrupting the pattern and for preventing future unusual occurrences; plans will be in writing and retained in the student's file.
 - ii. Discuss the potential consequences of repeated unusual occurrences with the student.
 - b. If no developing pattern is apparent, the supervising faculty member and the student (and preceptor, if applicable) shall meet to discuss plans for preventing future unusual occurrences.

When the unusual occurrence involving a student is noted by a staff member while the student and the faculty member are present in the institution/agency, the staff member shall notify the instructor immediately. The faculty member and the student shall implement steps 1 through 3 above.

When the unusual occurrence involving a student is noted by a staff member after the student and faculty member have left the facility:

1. The staff nurse shall:
 - a. Implement the policy of the institution/agency regarding unusual occurrences.

- b. Notify the unit Nurse/Clinic Manager (if applicable), who will notify the faculty member of the incident by telephone as soon as possible.
2. The student and faculty member shall implement Steps 1-3 within one working day following notification.

When the unusual occurrence involves a student being precepted by a member of the staff of the institution/agency:

1. The student and preceptor shall:
 - a. Implement the policy of the institution/agency regarding unusual occurrences.
 - b. Complete the “UAA SON Unusual Occurrence Form.”
 - c. Notify the faculty liaison of the occurrence as soon as possible (within 24 hours of its occurrence).
2. The faculty liaison shall carry out Step 3 (review the form to determine developing patterns and appropriate counseling).

Root Cause Analyses

With a significant incident, the student may be required to participate in a root cause analysis – a team effort geared to understand what and why the event occurred and how to prevent future events.

Potential Consequences of Repeated Occurrences Involving a Student

The faculty of the SON and the staff of clinical facilities recognize that unusual occurrences may occur as a result of circumstances that may or may not be within the control of the involved student. In general, the response of faculty and institutional/agency staff will be to study unusual occurrences to develop preventative action. However, when a pattern of unusual occurrences within the control of the student is apparent and when remedial action is not effective in reversing that pattern, the protection of clients requires action on the part of the SON. Depending upon the severity and frequency of unusual occurrences, the potential consequences may include any one or more of the following:

- Remedial study assignments related to the circumstances of the unusual occurrence
- Remedial assignments through an online tutorial or simulation laboratory.
- Remedial course work.
- Dismissal from the course and award of a failing grade with an option for re-enrollment in a future offering of the course, contingent upon satisfactory completion of remedial assignments and on a space-available basis.
- Dismissal from the course and award of a failing grade with the possibility of no option for reenrollment in a future offering of the course. This consequence includes dismissal from the nursing program. (This penalty may be applied automatically if it is apparent that the student deliberately concealed an error or occurrence or has made dishonest statements about the event.)

Note: Dismissal from a course with or without the option of re-enrollment in a future offering of the course shall occur only in situations in which the student's behavior leads the faculty member to believe that the student is not likely to seek appropriate assistance or follow direct instructions such that patient safety is impacted. Such actions shall be subject to the Grade Appeals Policy outlined in the UAA Catalog.

SECTION V: Dispute/Complaint Resolution Policies

The SON follows the complaint procedures outlined in the [UAA Student Handbook](#).

SECTION VI: Student Records Policies

Policy Regarding Maintenance of Student Educational Records

Student files are kept by the School of Nursing to facilitate pre-major advising, admission to the major, and faculty advising within the nursing major. The primary purpose of the files is to contribute to the educational development of students and to comply with various yearly statistical reports required by the School of Nursing, the Alaska State Board of Nursing and the nursing program specific accreditation bodies (ACEN or CCNE). Maintenance of these files complies with the UAA Policy on the application of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended. For additional information on the Federal law, see the [UAA Course Catalog](#) or the [UAA Student Handbook](#).

Maintenance of Active Student Records

A file for each student actively pursuing the nursing major is kept in a secure location. This file may contain petitions, progress reports, letters or statements of disciplinary action, scholarship award letters, financial aid appeal letters, and references prepared by SON faculty and/or staff.

A separate, confidential, online spreadsheet is maintained. It contains the name, student identification number, email, and initial cohort. Confidential student information is maintained in a password-protected file only accessible to appropriate personnel. Any additional information can be obtained through the UAA password-protected enrollment and course management systems.

Copies of health information, CPR certification, and background check records are maintained electronically, separately from the student's academic file. Students are advised to retain the originals of these documents. While copies of health, CPR certification, and background check records must be maintained throughout the student's enrollment in clinical coursework, they are returned to the student upon request at the completion of the final clinical class.

Retention of Student Files

Student advising records are maintained as active files until graduation, at which time they are transferred to a separate, but equally secure location, and kept for five years. Copies of faculty letters of reference and program verification forms may be added to the files of graduated students. At the end of five years, letters of reference originally generated by SON faculty will be inserted into a reference letter file to assist faculty in completing future requests for letters of reference. All other documents in the individual files will be shredded, including health requirement documents.

The file of a student who does not continue enrollment in the nursing program after being admitted to the clinical major will be kept in an inactive status for not more than seven years. Though the student may be required to reapply to UAA, to demonstrate the currency of curricular information or to meet updated School of Nursing requirements, retaining the file will facilitate advising for re-entry and appropriate placement within the nursing program. Student information will remain in the computer database indefinitely, listed under the status of attrition, along with the reason for leaving if known.

Records of students who transfer out of nursing to a non-nursing major will be forwarded to the academic department responsible for the new major after all nursing-specific documents have been removed (i.e., School of Nursing application, letters of reference, correspondence related to the nursing major and clinical evaluations and summaries of advising conferences). Nursing-specific documents will be placed in a separate file with student name and retained in an inactive status for not more than seven years. Student information will also remain in the computer database indefinitely, listed under the status of attrition/career change.

Upon graduation, student information in the computer database will be transferred to a perpetual alumni database. In addition to the transferred information, this database will contain graduation date, NCLEX results, employment status and employment site, and other graduate follow-up data that may be collected. As with the active student database, this information will be utilized for statistical purposes and for maintaining contact with alumni.

A separate Alumni Directory will be compiled utilizing the current name, address, telephone number, and personal and professional information of all alumni who give written permission to be included in such a directory. The Alumni Directory will be available for purchase through the SON Alumni Association Chapter.

Exceptions to the Retention Policy

The files of students, who have been dismissed from the nursing program for reasons of academic failure, dishonesty, or other disciplinary actions, may be kept indefinitely in a secure location.

Maintenance of Confidentiality

In keeping with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), students have the right to expect that information in their SON files will be kept confidential. The School of Nursing will follow UAA privacy and FERPA standards which can be found through the Office of the Registrar. This site provides information on how students may request access to their student records.

SECTION VII: Student Services and Resources

Tuition and fees

UAA semester expenses are discussed on the UAA [Tuition and Fees](#) website. The amount of fees reflects the number of courses and course activities. There are additional [Fees](#) assessed from the university and the nursing program. Some fees are distributed across the program, while others are charged to the student once. Fees for each class will be included in the course schedule.

Financial Aid

Financial assistance is available through the UAA [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) in the form of federal and state loans and grants (Alaska and Stafford Student Loans, Pell Grant, etc.) as well as grants through private organizations.

Look for information on the SON webpage for [nursing specific scholarships](#): [UAA Nursing Endowed Scholarship](#), [School of Nursing New Scholar Award](#), [Recruiting and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing](#), [Financial Aid](#)

Student Health Services

Student Health and Counseling Center

[The UAA Student Health and Counseling Center](#) campus health center provides primary health services for physical and mental health conditions as well as education and support to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In many cases, the center is a source of low-cost primary health care services with referrals for specialized treatment. The center may also bill your personal insurance. The UAA Student Health and Counseling Center is open weekdays during the regular academic year.

Dental Hygiene Clinic

On the UAA Anchorage campus, the [Dental Hygiene Clinic](#) provides reduced-cost dental care to staff, students, and community members. As part of the Dental Hygiene program, dental hygiene students see patients under the supervision of a dentist from the Anchorage community.

Psychological Services Center

The [Psychological Services Center](#) at UAA in Anchorage offers low-cost therapy and counseling to families, couples, and individuals of all ages for a variety of problems. Clinical psychology students in the last phase of study for the master's or doctoral degree see patients under the supervision of licensed psychologists from the psychology faculty. A fee schedule is based on each individual's ability to pay. For more information, call 907-786-1795.

Academic Resources

Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives in Nursing (RRANN) and Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Programs

RRANN and NWD were designed to 1) recruit Alaska Native/American Indian, other under-represented, economically or educationally disadvantaged students to a nursing career and the UAA nursing programs and 2) to facilitate those students' success in gaining access to the clinical nursing major and successful completion of the program. Since its inception in August 1998, a total of 170 Alaska Native or American Indian students (as of May 2009) have graduated from one of the two UAA nursing programs for RN level practice; the majority has completed the baccalaureate degree in nursing. A total of 160 students completed the NWDP program between 2006 and 2012. Currently, neither program receives any federal funding. RRANN continues to be funded with a general fund appropriation from the Alaska Legislature. An effort to obtain additional funding for both programs is underway.

Tutoring Services

Initiated with funding through the RRANN program, tutoring services are currently offered to any nursing student for both prerequisite and nursing-specific courses. A Tutor Coordinator arranges student requests and tutor services. Peer student tutors must have passed the appropriate course with a B or higher. The current Tutor Coordinator is a baccalaureate-nursing graduate who also provides tutoring services in some of the more complex nursing-specific courses. Students who receive tutoring have an 85% pass rate in those courses for which they received tutoring.

Wolf Cards

Your [Wolf Card](#) is your student identification card, a U-Pass card for the Anchorage/Valley bus system, your library card, and a card that provides access to services and resources on campus. The UAA student identification number is shown on the back of the card. The Wolf Card can also be used to pay for items sold on campus, such as meals, snacks at vending machines, and merchandise at the campus bookstore. You can use your credit card or debit card to add money to your Wolf Card as needed.

Student Advising & Advocacy

Advising is available for all nursing students.

- **Undergraduates:**
 - Students interested in the undergraduate nursing programs should contact the [COH Student Success Center advisors](#).
 - Once admitted to the program, you will be assigned a faculty advisory.
- **Graduates:** Contact the Graduate Program Assistant (907-786-4593; cdcaples@alaska.edu) who will refer you to the appropriate faculty advisor.

Testing Services

[Testing services](#) provide a professional testing environment that supports student retention and success by offering examinations for students and the community that assists with academic and professional advancement. The testing center maintains membership with and adheres to guidelines set forth by the National College Testing Association (NCTA). All testing appointments must be scheduled online, 24 hours in advance of the test date, to ensure all students/testers have a reserved workstation.

Writing Center

The [UAA Reading & Writing Center](#), located in SMB 118, provides reading and writing assistance to UAA students at all levels and all disciplines. Certified and formally trained tutors offer help for those seeking to improve their reading, writing, and study skills.

Native Student Services

[Native Student Services](#) (NSS) provides quality support services to Native and rural students. The NSS Center offers academic advising, scholarship information, assistance, and resource support.

Multicultural Center

One of the missions of the [UAA Multicultural Center](#) is to improve the overall quality of life for all underrepresented minority students (URMs) on the campus by developing and implementing educational, cultural, and social programs that will assist the students in obtaining satisfactory grades, reaching self-determined academic goals, and successfully graduating.

Student Ombudsman

Student Government provides a [Student Ombudsman](#) to serve as a neutral party to confidentially address student concerns and assist students in resolving their University-related complaints.

University Police

[UAA University Police](#) provides special services unique to the University setting. Those services include maintaining the security of University buildings, providing crime prevention classes to students, staff, and faculty, providing escorts on the University campus, vehicle and room unlock, and vehicle jumpstarts. The department is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information, call 907-786-1120.

Safety from Sexual violence (title ix)

Members of the university community, guests and visitors have the right to be free from sexual violence. All members of the campus community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. UAA takes all matters of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Violence seriously. If you have concerns or need to report an incident, please contact the [Office of Campus Diversity & Compliance](#).

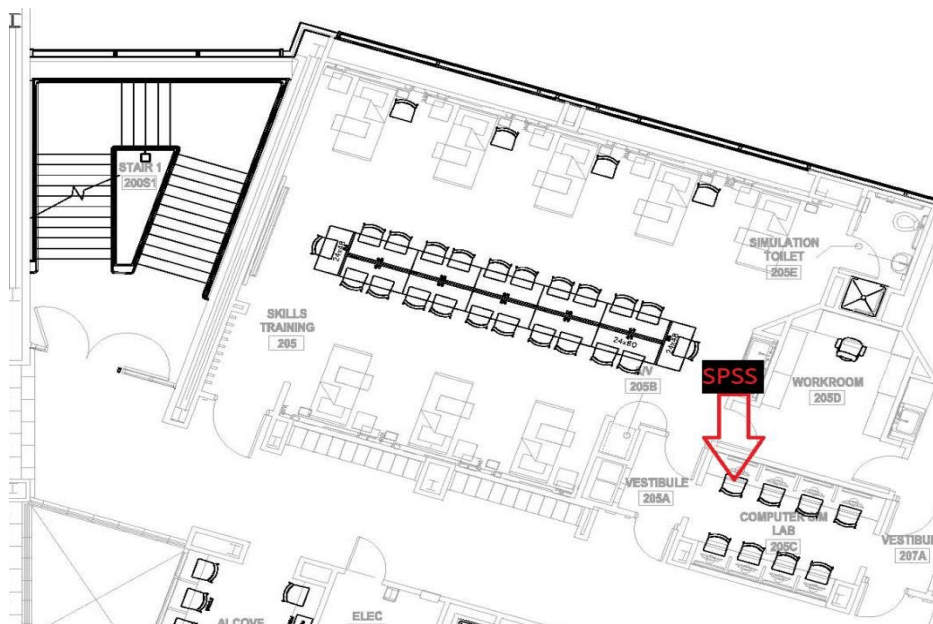
Facilities

School of Nursing Resource Center (NRC)

The UAA Nursing Resource Center (NRC) is comprised of two skills labs and a small computer lab. The skills labs are located on the second floor of the Health Sciences Building (HSB) with a small computer area in between the labs (HSB 205C). The skills labs include two different rooms equipped with materials necessary for teaching technical and assessment skills. The purpose of the NRC is to provide a supportive, learning environment where nursing students can enhance and challenge their ability to provide holistic patient care through the development of assessment, communication, critical thinking, organizational, and psychomotor skills.

The current NRC coordinator is Elise Harrison. Her office is in HSB 214; her phone number is (907) 7864565; her email is echarrison@alaska.edu.

Below is a map of where you can find the computers (in 205C). One of the computers has the full version of SPSS on it for student use when doing data analysis.



Campus Computer Labs

There are currently 50 computer labs on the Anchorage campus. While many of the labs are restricted by department-affiliated individuals, there are at least 12 unrestricted labs located across campus for use by any UAA student. Most of these computer labs are currently underutilized. See the [Computer Facilities site](#) for more information.

Consortium Library

The [Consortium Library](#) is your gateway to all the Library's resources and services, both print and online

(electronic). Use your university username and password as prompted. For help, call the UAA Information Technology Services Help Desk (Local: 907-786-4646; Toll-Free: 877-633-3888). Wireless Internet and data ports and electrical outlets are located throughout the library.

Alaska Medical Library

The [Alaska Medical Library](#) is a unit within the Consortium Library in Anchorage and located on the 2nd floor near the health collections. The medical library office is open 8-5 Monday-Friday, although students should make an appointment for in-depth research or help with database searching. One-on-one assistance is provided as needed, whether face-to-face or via distance. They provide a very valuable service, supporting faculty and students in healthcare disciplines to optimize their use of the library and its services.

Distance Students

For students living outside the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas, library staff will checkout and mail books using your library card number. If you have questions about this service, call 907-786-1828.

Library Cards

Your Wolf Card is your Library Card. Click [My Library Card](#) for more information.

Printing

Printing across the Anchorage campus is done through *Managed Print Stations* using your Wolf Card. There are two print stations in the HSB in each of the alcoves, HSB104 and HSB204. For more information, go to the [Managed Print](#) website.

UAA Student Government

Students have the opportunity to be involved in the Union of Students at UAA (USUAA), the student governance organization on campus. The purposes of USUAA are to:

1. broaden the educational perspective of students by instituting a structure of self-governance;
2. promote the educational needs, general welfare, and right of students;

3. serve as a forum for students to express their ideas for enhancing the quality of their educational experience through expanded and improved communications among students, faculty, and administration and beyond;
4. formulate policy and procedures concerning student life, and
5. serve all students equally, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, Vietnam era or disabled veteran status, physical or mental disability, change in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood.

All full and part-time students at UAA who pay the Student Government fee are automatically members of USUAA. Membership provides students with opportunities for involvement and leadership in a diverse array of campus activities. Additional information is available on the [USUAA web site](#).

SECTION VIII: School of Nursing Contacts

Name	Title	Email
Carla Hagen, PhD, MPH, RN	Director	cmhagen@alaska.edu
Kristen Lutz, PhD, RN	Associate Director	tba
Jill Janke, PhD, RN	Graduate Program Chair	jrjanke@alaska.edu
Jessica Chambers, DNP, APRN	Undergraduate Program Chair	mjchambers2@alaska.edu
Banu Mufale, BSN, RN	Academic Partnership Coordinator	blmufale@alaska.edu
Melody Starks	Office Manager/Assistant to the Director	mlstarks@alaska.edu
Chris Caples	Program Support Specialist – Graduate	cdcapes@alaska.edu
June Ebert	Program Support Specialist – Undergrad	jfebert@alaska.edu
Kim Hayes	Program Support Specialist – Undergrad	klhayes@alaska.edu
TBA	Program Support Specialist – Undergrad	TBA
Jennifer Straub	Compliance Assistant	jstraub@alaska.edu
TBA	Front Office Assistant	TBA
Rita Kittoe-Kaiser, MSN, RN	Coordinator, RRANN	rmkittoe@alaska.edu
Elise Harrison	Nursing Skills Lab Manager	smsanderlin@alaska.edu

PART 2: Graduate Nursing Program

SECTION I: Doctor of Nursing Practice Overview

Welcome

We are pleased you have chosen to attend the graduate DNP nursing program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Graduate studies at the doctoral level place primary emphasis upon advanced professional nursing practice, theory, research, and leadership roles in advancing health care delivery systems and application of research into practice. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) represents the highest degree in nursing practice. The DNP program at the UAA SON is accredited through 2021 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791.

The post-MS DNP program is for individuals who are master's prepared Advanced Practice Registered

Nurses (APRNs) and are certified in one of the 4 APRN roles (nurse practitioners [NP], nurse midwives [CNM], nurse anesthetists [CRNA], or clinical nurse specialists [CNS]). Since students in this pathway are already educated in a population focused advanced practice role, the program is designed to expand their knowledge and skills to interpret research, apply best practices, and incorporate clinical knowledge and leadership skills to influence health care systems and policy.

We hope you will find your educational experience challenging and rewarding, with opportunities for growth. We will do all we can to facilitate your educational endeavor. The following pages will give you an idea of our programs and resources which can help you achieve your goals and expand your horizons in professional nursing. Again, welcome, with best wishes for a productive learning experience.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Upon completion of the DNP program at UAA, the graduate is prepared to:

1. Demonstrate enhanced professional skills in advanced practice nursing using an ethical, evidencebased approach to promote healthy communities.
2. Apply clinical inquiry using a culturally sensitive, evidence-based approach to adapt practice and change health outcomes.
3. Act in expanded leadership roles to influence local, statewide and national health care policy and delivery systems serving unique, diverse and underserved populations.

DNP Essentials

The DNP Essentials guided the development of the DNP PSLOs and ultimately the individual course outcomes. By the end of the program, students will have shown mastery of the essentials.

1. Essential 1: Scientific underpinnings for practice
2. Essential 2: Organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking
3. Essential 3: Clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice
4. Essential 4: Information systems/technology and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care
5. Essential 5: Health care policy for advocacy in health care
6. Essential 6: Interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes
7. Essential 7: Clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation's health
8. Essential 8: Advanced practice

Post MS DNP Curriculum

As of fall 2021, thirty-five credits are required for the Post-MS DNP program; however, some credits may be waived or additional credits required based on a GAP analysis of master's transcripts. The program is designed to be completed in seven terms of part-time study (approximately 2 to 3 years, including summer sessions). Prior to being formally admitted, potential students may complete up to 9 credits of degree-applicable coursework. Students who are not formally admitted will be allowed to register for core courses on a space-available basis and with instructor permission.

Below (Table 1) is the basic curriculum for the Post-MS DNP, course descriptions can be found in the UAA catalog. The outcome of a GAP Analysis may result in some modifications to the requirements. The DNP advisor will need a copy of your graduate transcripts, course descriptions, and syllabi in order to do a GAP Analysis.

TABLE 1. POST-MASTERS DNP CURRICULUM

POST MS DNP COURSES	Title	Credits (contact hrs.: Lecture + Clinical)	Total Clinical Hours for Course
NSG A613	Advanced Practice informatics	2 (2+0)	
NSG A614	Ethics/Law	2 (2+0)	
NSG A615	Health Services Org & Finance	4 (4+0)	
NSG A618a	Advanced Nursing Leadership	2 (2+0)	
NSG A619	Health Economics	2 (2+0)	

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NSG A634	Epidemiology for Advanced Practice	2 (2+0)	
NSG A628	Practice Inquiry II: Design and Methods	3 (3+0)	
NSG A629	Practice Inquiry III: Proposal Development	2 (2+0)	
NSG A696a	Practice Inquiry 4: Capstone	2 (1+4)	60
NSG A696b	Practice Inquiry 4: Capstone	2 (1+4)	60
NSG A696c	Practice Inquiry 4: Capstone	2 (1+4)	60
NSG A683	Clinical Immersion*	2-3 (1+4-8)	60-120
NSG A684	Clinical Concentration*	2-4 (1+4-12)	60-180
	Elective (advisor approved)	3 (3+0)	
		TOTAL: 35 credits	300-480 hours

*These courses are variable credit and the number of credits needed is based on how many clinical credits were accepted from the master's program. The DNP degree requires 1000 clinical hours; up to 700 hours can be applied from the APRN masters with appropriate documentation. Students who have 1000 clinical hours without taking NSG A683, may be able to waive the required course.

Table 2 shows the recommended part-time plan of study sequencing of courses. However, some modification may be necessary based on when a student starts taking courses and the results of their GAP analysis.

TABLE 2. DNP Part-time Plan of Study Sequencing

Term 1 FALL	Cr	Term 2 SP	Cr	Term 3 SU	Cr
NSG A613 Informatics	2	NSG A618a Adv. Leadership	2	NSG A614 Ethics & Law	2
NSG A615 Health Serv Org & Finance	4	NSG A634 Epidemiology Advanced Practice	2	NSG A619a Health Economics	2
Total	6	Total	4	Total	4
Term 4 FALL	Cr	Term 5 SP	Cr	Term 6 SU	Cr
NSG A628 Design-Methods*	3	NSG A696a (60 clin. hrs.)	2	NSG A696b (60 clin. hrs.)	2
NSG A629 Proposal Dev.*	2	Adv. approved elec.	3	NSG A684 Clinical Imm. (60180 clin. hrs.)	4**
Total	5	Total	5	Total	6
Term 7 FALL	Cr	*NOTE: NSG A628, 629, 696a, 696b, and 696c must be taken sequentially (628 & 629 are ½ term courses, so students take 628 prior to 629). **NOTE: NSG A683 & 684 are variable credit clinical courses. How many credits will depend on how many MS clinical credits are applied to the 1000 needed for the DNP.			
NSG A696c (60 clin. hrs)	2				
NSG A683 Clinical Conc. (60120 clin. hrs.)	3**				
Total	5				

DNP Course Delivery

Graduate DNP courses are offered online. Some courses may be offered in a condensed 7.5-week format. The program was designed to allow students who reside outside of Anchorage to take advantage of the opportunity to pursue graduate study at UAA. All students will have the opportunity to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities throughout the state, including both urban and rural settings.

Academic Advising

A Post-MS DNP Nursing Program advisor, named on the student's UAA Certificate of Admission, assists in formulating a plan of study that is feasible and best meets the student's needs. All graduate nursing students must seek formal academic advisement at the time admission, or sooner. Once admitted they will meet with their advisor to have a GAP Analysis of their transcripts to determine how many DNP practice hours will be needed and whether any other coursework is needed or can be waived. Students are expected to follow their Plan of Study. Any changes need to be approved by their advisor.

Student Responsibility

The DNP handbook is meant to accompany the [UAA Catalog](#) and the [UAA Student Handbook](#). It is the responsibility of the individual student to become familiar with the policies and regulations of the University of Alaska Anchorage as it relates to their program of study, registration, graduation etc. Advisement assists the student in meeting graduation goals. The student should initiate advisement by contacting the graduate program assistant who refer them to the proper faculty.

Chris Caples

907-786-4570

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SECTION II: DNP Practicum

The DNP degree requires a *minimum* of 1000 clinical hours. Clinical hours include direct care hours (from MS degree) and DNP Practicum hours. Post MS DNP students can apply up to 700 faculty-supervised clinical hours from their master's program.

- Direct Care hours are those in which students gain experience in a nursing specialty (earned during your MS APRN program).
- DNP Practicum hours are those earned by engaging in experiences, activities, or events during the DNP program (not before) related to the role and responsibilities of the doctorally prepared advanced practice nurse. The hours are related to the student's unique area of inquiry and support the DNP project. One-hundred and eighty hours are tied to the DNP project. The other Practicum hours will be earned in NSG A684 Immersion. It is a variable credit course and how many hours you need will depend on your GAP analysis and how many hours were accepted from your master's program. Typically, the hours range from 120 to 180.

NOTE: DNP Practicum hours are null and void in the case of course failure or course withdrawal. When the course is repeated, practicum hours are not counted from the first attempt.

DNP Practicum Hours

The DNP Practicum hours are used for students to demonstrate mastery of the DNP Essentials. They may include scholarly activities, healthcare leadership skills, and professional development. These components are documented through written and clinical experiences in developing, implementing, and evaluating a scholarly project. Clinical course faculty are responsible for approving, supervising, and evaluating these experiences, with input from DNP Project Team Chair when relevant.

The DNP student assumes an expanded scope of practice for patients; provides leadership to foster intraprofessional and inter-professional collaboration, demonstrates skills in peer review that promote a culture of evidence, and applies clinical investigative skills to evaluate patient health outcomes.

UAA SON must have a **Memorandum of Agreement** with all DNP Practicum sites before a student can begin their rotation. Students may complete DNP Practicum hours within the organization where they are employed, but not during paid clinical hours. During the DNP Practicum experience, the DNP student should be an integral member of the interprofessional team and assume leadership responsibilities when appropriate, while being advised by their clinical course faculty.

Course Registration

Graduate students get priority registration. As you register make sure you note the start and end dates of the courses, and if there are on campus intensives, or synchronous class times. Please note that some graduate courses are offered in an intensive format. Students should be aware that add/drop dates are prorated, based on when a course starts and ends. This information is available on the UAA website:

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/records/calendar/>.

Students Admitted to DNP Program

Students admitted to the DNP program should register for courses during **priority registration** to assure a seat in courses they need for the degree. Graduate students are able to register before any other students and the longer they delay registering the greater the chance a course they need will be filled or cancelled due to low enrollment. Approximately, two weeks after the start of priority registration, open registration begins and students not yet admitted to the program can fill the courses to capacity. By registering **EARLY** for the courses you need you will assure your seat.

Non-Degree Seeking Students (those students who want to take courses before official admission)

Students who want to take courses before they are officially admitted must do the following:

1. Go to UAOnline.alaska.edu and click on 'Just Want to Take a Class' ... select 'Non-Degree Seeking'. This short form puts you into the computer so you can register. There is no fee associated with this and it does not replace the formal application for admission to graduate school.
2. Send an email to Dr. Jill Janke (jrjanke@alaska.edu) requesting an override for the course(s) you want to take. In the email include the following:
 - a. Your student ID
 - b. The Course Registration Number (CRN): a five-digit number used to register for the course.

Remember, the ability to take a course prior to admission is based on space availability and faculty approval. Also, you are limited to 9 credits prior to formal admission.

SECTION III: Admission Requirements

DNP Admission Deadlines

Students Admitted to DNP Program

Refer to the current UAA Course Catalog for UAA graduate admission requirements and deadlines.

School of Nursing Deadlines

The SON has a rolling admission. Completed applications are reviewed each semester.

DNP Admission Eligibility

Individuals wanting to apply to the Post-Masters DNP program must meet the following requirements:

1. Have an earned Master of Science in nursing from a regionally accredited Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) program. The program must also be accredited by the Accreditation for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
2. Have a graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (applicants who attended a program that issued pass/fail grades for all classes will not be considered, unless there is official documentation from the University they attended that a 'pass' is equivalent to a B or better).
3. Have national certification as a nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist.

4. Have an active unencumbered APRN license in the State of Alaska.
5. Be currently engaged in practice as an APRN.
6. Have taken a graduate level inferential statistics course within the last five years (if not taken, they will be required to take NSG A633 Statistics for Advance Practice while in the program).

Admission Process

Applicants who meet the above criteria are considered for program admission on a competitive basis. Meeting all admission criteria does not guarantee admission. Consideration may be given for clinical expertise, proficiency in other languages, knowledge of other cultures, and a proven record of professional contributions. This information should be documented in the Résumé portion of the application.

Completed DNP applicant files are reviewed each term. Eligible applicants must submit a sample writing assignment and are scheduled for a faculty interview. Faculty make a final ranking, based on all criteria and a decision is made. Applicants are notified of their acceptance within a month of the application review. Admission will be contingent on fulfilling the health requirements (listed in part I section IV of DNP handbook), having an active BLS certificate, and passing the UAA SON criminal background check prior to the start of clinical.

The Graduate Program Council considers the following characteristics of competitive applicants:

- Academic potential to successfully complete the program within the required time frame.
- Understanding of the role of the advanced practice nurse.
- Professional integrity and maturity.
- Written and verbal communication skills.
- Quality and quantity of health care experiences.
- Time working as RN.
- Quality of leadership and service activities.
- Life-long learning.
- Involvement in profession.

DNP Application

The application for the DNP program can be found by opening:

<https://uaonline.alaska.edu>

At the top bar, select **'future students'** ... **'apply for admission'** ... select **'UAA apply as degree seeking'** and that takes you to the UAA Applicant Portal. Select **NEW USERS** if you have never been admitted to UAA. Once your application is submitted, be sure and monitor it to ascertain that your references and (if needed) your transcripts have been uploaded.

Orientation

UAA Graduate School: All students should become familiar with the [UAA Graduate School](#) support services.

SON DNP Orientation: Since the DNP program uses rolling admissions, initial orientation is done on a one-to-one basis. Prior to starting the Project Inquiry courses (NSG A628, 629, 696a, 696b, 696c) the cohort has a formal orientation to the project process.

SECTION IV: Graduate Student Policies

Transfer Credits and Petitions*

To transfer credits from another University, the student and faculty advisor must fill out a [graduate petition](#) and submit catalog course descriptions and syllabi, as requested. The petition typically goes to the faculty person teaching similar content at UAA for initial approval. Then its suitability for transfer credit is evaluated by the Graduate Program Council (GPC). If approved by the GPC, the Graduate Program chair signs off on it and forwards it for further approval by the SON Director, the COH Dean/Associate Dean, and the Graduate School Dean. Please note that courses used toward a prior degree cannot be petitioned for credit towards the current degree. Courses being requested to apply toward the current degree must have been completed within seven years of the date of graduation for the current degree.

Grading Policy

The SON's grading rubric is as follows*:

Grade	GPA (%)
A =	4.00 (90-100%)
B =	3.00 to 3.99 (80-89.9%)
C =	2.00 to 2.99 (70.79%)
D =	1.00 to 1.99 (60-69.6%)
F =	< 1.00 (< 60%)

*NOTE: When a student withdraws at or after the mid-point of a required course, the grade they have at the time of withdrawal will be noted as the grade earned for the purpose of the Good Standing Policy. Documentation of the grade, at the time of withdrawal, will be placed in the student's file. The determination of mid-point will be based on the start and end date of the class.

All assignment grades in the DNP program will be calculated to 2 decimal places for entry into the grade book. No rounding will take place in the calculation of these grades (i.e., 83.5673 will be 83.56). Final grades will be calculated by adding and weighting the assignment grades per the course syllabus.

Students have **one week** after the return of a graded item, to discuss a change of grade for the assignment with the instructor, based on a valid rationale. After one week, the grade becomes permanent and will be used in calculating the final course grade.

Students are expected to turn all graded and pass/fail assignments in on time. Grade deductions for late assignments may vary between assignments, courses, and faculty. The course syllabus will serve as the definitive policy for missed or late assignments.

Continuous Registration and Progress

Graduate students are expected to make continuous progress in their program of study, from admission through completion of the degree. This requires that the student maintain continuous registration every term until degree completion. Students who need to temporarily suspend their studies for personal reasons must [Request a Temporary Leave of Absence](#) through their advisor and committee chair and the UAA Graduate School. If the leave is approved by the graduate school, the student is placed on inactive status for *up to one academic year*. If a student is unable to return to their studies after one year they are withdrawn from the program.

Ideally, students will complete their project at the same time they complete other course work. In the event a student has completed all course work, with the exception of the project, they will **have up to 3 sequential academic terms to complete their degree**. However, they must make substantial progress each term in order to remain in good standing.

Good Standing Policy

The UAA SON Graduate Program has a Good Standing Policy. It is updated yearly and becomes effective immediately. Current students should be familiar with the most recent policy. When the policy addresses a grade, it will be referring to the SON grading rubric (see Grading Policy, including the special note, above).

Requirements to Remain in Good Standing

To remain in good standing, the student must:

1. Meet **provisional admission** requirements within admission letter time frame (if noted).
2. Maintain **professional and academic standards** at all times.
3. Earn a **minimum B grade** in all required courses for the DNP program. [Note: A student cannot be considered for SON admission unless a B grade (3.0) has been earned in all required graduate course work taken prior to admission]. Once admitted, students are expected to follow their plan of study. Any alterations must be done with approval of advisor.
4. Maintain **continuous registration** once admitted or ask for and is granted, a one-time only leave of absence.

5. Make **continual progress** toward degree completion once admitted to the graduate program; the one exception would be if a student is on an approved leave of absence (see above).
6. Complete project within 3 sequential terms after finishing NSG A696c.

Academic Probation

A student is placed on academic probation under the following circumstances:

1. If a student earns a C (2.0) in any required course for the **1st time** or withdraws at or after the midpoint of a course with a course grade of C (regardless of the cumulative GPA). 'Midpoint' is based on the start and end date of a given course.
 - A student remains on probation for up to one year until the course is re-taken the next time it is offered for a B or better. A student may take other core courses while waiting to re-take the course in which they received a C grade.
 - In order to re-take any course after being placed on academic probation the student must fill out the **Graduate Re-enrollment Request** (DNP Blackboard site), which includes a detailed strategy for success, a new plan of study, and a recommendation from course faculty to allow the student to repeat the course. Granting the re-enrollment request will be based in part on space and clinical site availability and successful completion of any remediation required by course faculty.
2. The first time a student *fails to make adequate progress** while enrolled in NSG A696a, NSG A696b, or NSG A696c, after completing all other required coursework.
*NOTE: Adequate progress addresses the major milestones toward project completion, such as: proposal being approved by committee; successful proposal defense; successful IRB application; completion of data collection and analysis; writing up results and discussion, final project defense. Students are expected to contract with their committee chair and provide a time line for the trimester addressing what they will accomplish. The contract must be signed by the student and the committee chair and a copy turned in to the faculty in charge of the project seminar, the program chair, and a copy is placed in the student's file. The contract must be turned in within two weeks of the start of the trimester.

Program Dismissal

Program dismissal occurs:

1. If a student fails to meet the **provisional admission** requirements within the time frame indicated in the admission letter.
2. If a student fails to re-take the **1st** course in which a C was received for a B or better the next time it is offered (within 1 year).
3. If a student earns a **2nd** C in any required course or withdraws at or after the midpoint of the course with a C or lower course grade.
4. If a student earns a D or lower in any required course for the **1st** time or withdraws at or after the midpoint of the course with a D or lower course grade.

5. If a student fails to maintain *continuous registration* once admitted to the program or fails to request or be granted a leave of absence (only one leave allowed).
6. If a student *fails to make adequate progress* for the 2nd time while enrolled in ND A696 after completing all other required course work.
7. If a student at any time violates professional standards, fails to maintain academic integrity, and/or has their RN license encumbered (includes, but is not limited to, engaging in unethical, unprofessional, or unsafe behavior).

Graduate Re-Enrollment

Students who need to re-take a course must fill out the [Graduate Re-enrollment Request](#). This form requires a detailed strategy for success, a new plan of study, and a recommendation from course faculty to allow the student to repeat the course. If the faculty recommends remediation, that must be completed before the student re-takes the course. If there is a clinical component to the course, re-enrollment may be contingent on course and clinical space availability.

Graduate Re-Admission after Program Dismissal

All students who are **dismissed** from the program may reapply for admission; however, a request for readmission may or may not be granted. When making a decision regarding *readmission after program dismissal*, the faculty and Graduate Program Council will consider the entire content of the student's file, including all events leading up to the dismissal.

To request program readmission after dismissal, the student must submit a new application to the program (and if needed, to UAA), meeting all current application requirements. In addition, the student must submit a request for [Graduate Readmission after Program Dismissal](#) which includes a plan for success, a new plan of study, and faculty/program coordinator/chair recommendation. The request is then forwarded to the Graduate Program Council for consideration. The recommendation from the committee will be forwarded to the SON Director who will make the final decision regarding readmission. The new plan of study will be based on the student's history and how much time has elapsed since a course was first taken. Some course work may need to be repeated. In addition, there may be remediation conditions that must be met satisfactorily prior to re-entry.

Students who are dismissed for non-progression reasons alone and who subsequently are granted readmission will be considered in good standing when they begin their course work. Examples of students being dismissed for non-progression reasons include, but are not limited to, withdrawal from classes when in good standing and/or delayed coursework in the program for more than a year. A new plan of study must be submitted with the request for readmission. Some course work may need to be repeated, depending on how much time has elapsed since a course was first taken.

All students dismissed from the program for **academic or professional reasons** (e.g. violation of academic and/or professional standards, grade issues) and who subsequently are granted readmission, will remain on **probationary readmission** throughout the remainder of his/her program. **Probationary readmission** is on a space available basis and is valid as long as the student remains in good standing. In making a decision regarding **readmission after program dismissal for academic or professional reasons**, faculty will take into consideration the philosophical statement on academic integrity approved by faculty in 2009:

The profession of nursing holds its members to high standards of conduct. Nurses are expected to be knowledgeable, honest, ethical, responsible, accountable, respectful, and trustworthy. As licensed and practicing RNs, individuals admitted to the graduate nursing program should possess these core attributes. Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of their academic work. Academic integrity violations demonstrate a lack of core professional values and will not be tolerated in any form. Graduate student nurses should be practicing with the highest moral, ethical and professional standards. As such, any proven occurrence(s) of academic dishonesty will result in severe consequences.

SECTION V: Student Representation

Student Government (UNION OF STUDENTS)

The Union of Students provides opportunities to serve on University boards, committees, and task groups that make UAA policy recommendations and decisions affecting students, faculty, and administration. To find out more information, go to the following website: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/unionofstudents/>.

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) represents the interests of all students wishing to attain advanced degrees by communicating with the university administration to effect positive change. You can find out more about the GSA at their website: <https://life.uaa.alaska.edu/organization/gsa>.

The GSA strives to make UAA a more competitive institution by maintaining a living wage, adequate health insurance, sufficient resources, and administrative support for all graduate students. In addition, the Graduate Student Association provides a supportive community for students in all colleges and departments. Any UAA student is welcome to attend GSA meetings and events. For more information about the GSA, or to be added to the Listserv, please email aygsa@uaa.alaska.edu.

Potential and incoming graduate students are encouraged to contact the GSA with any questions about being a graduate student at UAA. Graduate Student Orientation is specifically designed for new graduate students, who are already familiar with college.

The program familiarizes students with UAA, its policies, and resources specifically for graduate students. For more information on orientation schedules and dates, check the following web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateschool/Orientation/index.cfm>

Graduate Representation on SON Committees

Students are the reason the SON exists. Every effort is made to encourage and facilitate student participation and input into all phases of the educational process. Student representatives are included in the membership of the University of Alaska Board of Regents as well as on a variety of UAA committees.

The School encourages student participation in all aspects of campus life: in formal and informal contacts with the SON Director and faculty, and in the committee work of the SON, the UAA Graduate School, and UAA Governance.

Committees function to facilitate, coordinate, and develop the purposes of the School in an orderly fashion. Each faculty member serves on at least one standing committee. Student representation on selected standing committees is solicited each year by faculty.

Participation in the SON Graduate Program Council open meetings as a non-voting member is an avenue by which students can provide input to the faculty about program policies, admissions, and curriculum. Any graduate student interested in serving on the committee may submit their name to a faculty member or the Graduate Program Chair.

SON Graduate Program Council

The Graduate Program Council (GPC) has several functions, as delineated below. It meets on the first, second, and fourth Monday of the month from 0945 to 1115.

□ Assessment and Evaluation Functions:

- To serve as an ongoing problem-solving group related to the daily functioning of the graduate nursing programs.
- To provide for ongoing assessment, evaluation, and future development of the graduate nursing programs.
- To provide a forum for students to address issues with graduate nursing programs.
- To review, analyze, and report on the graduate nursing programs assessment of student outcomes.
- To make suggestions for changes in graduate nursing programs outcome measurement and data collection methods.

□ Curriculum Functions:

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- To review and make recommendations on all courses proposed as new offerings in the nursing graduate programs.
 - To conduct periodic curriculum evaluation and approve updates of the graduate nursing programs.
 - To review and make recommendations regarding student petitions for exceptions to the usual graduate nursing programs of study.
 - To review annually and update advising materials of the graduate nursing programs. ○ To review non-nursing course requirements for the graduate nursing programs.
 - To make recommendations to the Director of the School of Nursing regarding proposed changes in the graduate nursing programs curriculum.
 - To make recommendations and to facilitate planning for curriculum development workshops. ○ To utilize the results of graduate nursing programs outcomes assessment and evaluation in curricular decision making (reviewing systematic program evaluation plan, data from exit survey, alumni survey, and employer survey).
- Recruitment, Admissions, Retention, and Progression Functions:
- To develop, implement, and evaluate graduate nursing programs recruitment activities.
 - To coordinate, implement, and evaluate graduate nursing programs recruitment, admissions, retention, and progression activities.
 - To review and evaluate students for admission and readmission.
 - To make recommendations to the Director regarding graduate nursing programs admission and readmission of students. ○ To design and implement activities to foster the retention and progression of students in graduate nursing programs.
 - To evaluate graduate nursing programs admission policies and make recommendations for change.

Graduate Membership in Professional Organizations

Theta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau

Sigma Theta Tau is the International Honor Society of Nursing. Chartered in 1986, Theta Omicron is the UAA Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Membership in Theta Omicron is open to graduate nursing students who have completed at least one quarter of the required courses and is by invitation. Eligibility criteria include: enrollment in the nursing graduate course work and being in the upper 35th percentile of the graduating class as measured by cumulative GPA. Induction to Theta Omicron occurs in the spring trimester, generally around the time of May graduation.

Theta Omicron carries out a number of activities that support the ongoing education of nursing professionals and that facilitate nursing scholarship. In addition, the organization recognizes leadership with the annual award of the Tina DeLapp/Theta Omicron Professional Excellence Award.

Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the State Universities of Maine, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania to recognize and encourage superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. The UAA chapter of Phi Kappa Phi was chartered in 1990. The Society was named Phi Kappa Phi from the initial letter of the Greek words forming its adopted motto “Philosophia Krareito Photon,” “Let the love of learning rule humanity.” Nomination to Phi Kappa Phi is very selective and is based upon academic achievement and good character. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is limited to the top students of each graduating class; a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.8 is required for an invitation to membership to be issued.

SECTION VI: Graduate Student Success and Project

Student Success

Graduate students must be able to use computers for communication, to access online classes, and to write papers. Success in graduate school also requires good technical writing skills and knowledge of APA formatting and referencing. Students who need to improve their writing skills are encouraged to take English 414 “Research Writing”. The [UAA Learning Resource Center](#) is another resource for students having difficulty with professional writing. Other academic resources are listed under PART I, section VIII.

Scholarly Project

During the DNP program, students will complete a scholarly project demonstrating doctoral level clinical scholarship as a graduation requirement. AACN (2015) recommends the following:

1. **Title:** The final scholarly project should be called a DNP Project to avoid confusion with the term capstone, which is used at varying levels of education (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, 2013). The DNP Project is not a research dissertation; therefore, this term should not be used.
2. **Scholarly Product:** The product of the DNP Project may take on various final forms. We encourage a support innovation in the design and dissemination of the final project and product to reflect the changing healthcare environment. The elements of the DNP Project should be the same for all students and include planning, implementation, and evaluation components. As an outcome of the program, students must have the opportunity to integrate all DNP Essentials into practice. However, not all eight Essentials have to be demonstrated in the DNP Project. All DNP Projects should:

- a. Focus on a change that impacts healthcare outcomes either through direct or indirect care.
 - b. Have a systems (micro-, meso-, or macro- level) or population/aggregate focus.
 - c. Demonstrate implementation in the appropriate arena or area of practice.
 - d. Include a plan for sustainability (e.g. financial, systems or political realities, not only theoretical abstractions).
 - e. Include an evaluation of processes and/or outcomes (formative or summative). DNP Projects should be designed so that processes and/or outcomes will be evaluated to guide practice and policy. Clinical significance is as important in guiding practice as statistical significance is in evaluating research.
 - f. Provide a foundation for future practice scholarship in advanced practice nursing.
 - g. Examples of DNP Projects include:
 - quality improvement initiatives
 - implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice guidelines
 - development of a practice specific protocol or practice change to improve care or system efficiency
 - development of new care models
 - community based systems change designed to improve care to a population
 - policy change initiatives
 - utilization of technology to improve practice and/or health care outcomes.
 - h. Examples of what are NOT DNP Projects
 - Integrative and Systematic Reviews: Contrary to the DNP Essentials, the task force believes that an integrative and systematic review alone is not considered a DNP project and does not provide opportunities for students to develop and integrate scholarship into their practice.
 - Portfolios: A student's portfolio is not considered a DNP Project, but rather a tool to document and evaluate professional development and learning or synthesis of student's development and learning.
3. **Dissemination of the DNP Project** should include a product that describes the purpose, planning, implementation, and evaluation components of the project, and should be required for each project. Dissemination of the project outcomes is essential, may include a variety of forms depending upon the focus and area of advanced nursing practice, and should be targeted to appropriate audiences to ensure impact.
4. **Evaluation of the final DNP Project** is the responsibility of the faculty. Evaluation includes a review process, which may include academic review, peer review and/or stakeholder review. In addition, review and input from stakeholders outside of

academia are important to ensure rigor, applicability, and impact of the work as well as to disseminate outcomes.

5. DNP final projects are published in the University of Alaska Institutional Repository (IR).

Reference

AACN (2015). The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Current Issues and Clarifying Recommendations Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP. Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/aacn-publications/white-papers/DNP-Implementation-TF-Report-8-15.pdf>

UAA Graduate School Project Guidelines

The UAA Graduate School's website has [guidelines for project formatting and submission](#). It is important to review and follow the guidelines.

SECTION VII: Graduation Information

Application for Graduation

During the term you plan to graduate you must fill out an [Application to Graduate](#). Students will have until the week before 'finals' week of the term to apply to graduate. However, if you are graduating in the spring and want your name to appear in the commencement program you must apply by April 1st. There is a \$50.00 fee that must be paid, through UA online, at the time you submit your application.

Students who apply for graduation and who do not complete their degree/certificate requirements by the end of the term in which they have been approved to graduate, but are within six credits of completion, will have their application request changed to the following term by the Office of the Registrar. This courtesy change will be granted **one time**. Students with more than 6 outstanding credits of requirements remaining, or who have 6 credits or fewer remaining for a second term, must reapply for graduation and pay another application fee.

Commencement Ceremonies

UAA Commencement ceremonies are held in December after the end of the fall term and held in May at the end of the spring term. All students are encouraged to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students who will be graduating with honors will need to contact Enrollment Services to find out procedures for picking up honor cords the day of the commencement. Commencement is usually held on the first Sunday after the end of the fall or spring terms. Commencement will be held in the UAA Sports Arena.

School of Nursing Graduation Reception

The recognition ceremony for nursing graduates is a function separate from the formal University graduation (commencement ceremonies). It is held in December for associate, baccalaureate and graduate students completing their program at the end of the fall term, in April for the associate degree, baccalaureate, and graduate students completing their program at the end of the spring term, and in August for baccalaureate and graduate students completing their program at the end of summer term. Graduates of all nursing programs are honored at these ceremonies.

The recognition ceremony provides students with an opportunity to celebrate their achievements with friends and family in a personal way. Participation in the graduation reception is optional. Planning the ceremony is the responsibility of the SON Student Affairs Committee, which is composed of faculty and student representatives. Graduating students fund the costs associated with the recognition ceremony, generally by soliciting donations and by selling tickets to friends and family members. At the graduation reception, school pins and special awards are presented to graduating students. Student input is vigorously sought in the planning of the ceremony so that the event is a personally meaningful celebration.

Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony

The special Hooding Ceremony adds to the graduation experience by making it possible to focus on advanced degree candidates and their accomplishments. It allows graduate faculty and staff, family and friends a chance to witness the ceremonial hooding of the graduate student in a more intimate setting. Please Note: This special Hooding Ceremony does not take the place of Commencement. Graduate Students will continue to walk and have their degrees conferred at Commencement. More information on the hooding ceremony can be found at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/commencement/graduatingstudents/index.cfm>