THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE OF NURSING

URI Online Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Handbook

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I. Important Contacts

URI ONLINE

General contact	401-874-5280	online@uri.edu
Support Specialists		https://web.uri.edu/online/online-student-support/
URI General Information	401-874-1000	https://www.uri.edu/
Enrollment Services	401-874-9500	enrollment-group@uri.edu
Financial Aid		https://web.uri.edu/financial-aid/
URI CON Graduate Office	401-874-9711	gradnursing@uri.edu
URI CON Graduate Fax	401-874-9050	

DEANS & PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dr. Danny Willis, Dean	danny.willis@uri.edu
Dr. Denise Coppa, Interim Associate Dean Graduate Programs	dcoppa@uri.edu
Dr. Mary Leveillee, Interim Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs	mleveillee@uri.edu
Dr. Rebecca Carley, DNP Online Program Director	carley@uri.edu

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Ms. Cassie White, Specialist, Graduate Programs	cwhite481@uri.edu
Ms. Shandra Pelagio, Administrative Assistant	shandra@uri.edu

URI GRADUATE SCHOOL CONTACTS

Graduate School	401-874-2262	https://web.uri.edu/graduate-school/
Graduate School Office		urigrad@etal.uri.edu
Dr. Colleen Mouw, Acting Dean		cmouw@uri.edu
Ms. Kimberly Jimenez Executive Assistant		kimberly.jimenez@uri.edu
URI Office of Ombud		https://web.uri.edu/ombud/

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Graduate School Academic Support Resources

Graduate Writing & Presenting Lab

University Libraries

Office of Disability, Access, & Inclusion

II. Introduction

The College of Nursing Student Handbook is provided as a guide for students enrolled in the online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at URI, and is intended to provide student with: (1) an overview of the College of Nursing and its history, vision, mission, values; (2) a description of the competencies DNP students are expected to achieve prior to graduation ("expected program outcomes"); (3) (3)   a description of the academic, professional and clinical policies applicable to these graduate students in the College of Nursing.

This Handbook is intended as a convenient guide to the current policies and procedures within the College of Nursing (CON); CON graduate policies and procedures are consistent with those outlined in the University Manual, the Graduate School Manual and the University of Rhode Island Academic Catalog. In some cases, procedures and policies may be more specific or rigorous within the CON than the minimum requirements set forth in the Graduate School Manual.

All students are expected to review the DNP Online Student Handbook at the start of the academic year and as necessary throughout the academic year. Each student assumes responsibility to become familiar with the information contained in this Handbook. Students are expected to comply with all policies and curricular requirements that were in place at the time they matriculated into the College of Nursing, although students have the option to follow updated policies, curricula, etc. Procedures change periodically; all students must follow the current procedures being followed in any academic year. The CON Handbook may be accessed electronically on the College of Nursing website and the CON Graduate Student Brightspace Page. Any questions pertaining to any of the contents of this handbook should be directed to Dr. Denise Coppa, CON Interim Associate Dean.

The College reserves the right to add, delete, revise, or change the information, including all policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook. All students are expected to review the Handbook at the start of the academic year and as necessary throughout the academic year.

The Handbook may be accessed electronically on the College of Nursing website. This location will contain the most up-to-date version of the Handbook and supersedes all other versions.

Any questions pertaining to any of the contents of this Handbook should be emailed to the College of Nursing at gradnursing@uri.edu

History of the College of Nursing

In September 1945, the University began its first nursing program with nine students in the School of Home Economics. In 1947, the Division of Nursing was established and Miss Louisa White, Associate Professor, was appointed Director. The College began offering a Master's degree in Nursing in 1970, a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 1985, and a Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) in 2010.

Until 1968, nursing students lived in Providence during the clinical portion of the program and most of the faculty had offices at Rhode Island Hospital. In 1963, on the Kingston campus, Fogarty Hall was dedicated and office space was provided for the Dean, several faculty and two secretaries. A new

building, White Hall, was designed specifically for the College of Nursing. White Hall, named in honor of the first director of the nursing program, was dedicated in 1977. In 2017, URI CON expanded to an additional location in Providence – the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC). RINEC is now home to the CON graduate programs and upper division undergraduate courses.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and post-master's certificate programs at The University of Rhode Island College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation). PhD programs are not accredited by AACN/CCNE; however, the PhD program follows the AACN recommendations for research focused doctoral programs in nursing (AACN, 2001; AACN, 2010). (Available at: https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Research-Data-Center/PhD)

URI College of Nursing Vision

The University of Rhode Island College of Nursing is a dynamic catalyst for improving health and transforming healthcare through innovation and excellence in education, knowledge development, discovery and professional practice to meet the needs of a global society.

URI College of Nursing Mission

To prepare nurses to excel as outstanding and compassionate clinicians, scholars and leaders who will enhance the health and health care of individuals, families, communities and populations, both locally and globally.

URI College of Nursing Values

- Social justice, diversity, inclusivity, & civic engagement
- Respectful, ethical, humanistic, & compassionate care
- Intellectual curiosity, innovation, & scholarly inquiry
- Leadership, lifelong learning, & excellence in practice

III. DNP Program Outcomes

The Student Learning Outcomes for the DNP Program (Aligned with 2021 AACN Domains) include the following:

- **Knowledge for Nursing Practice**- Lead the integration, translation, and application of established and evolving nursing knowledge founded on natural and social sciences into advanced nursing practice.
- **Person-Centered Care**- Design, provide, and evaluate holistic, just, compassionate, person-centered, evidence-based healthcare for individuals and families as advanced practice nurses.
- **Population Health**- Implement local, regional, and national initiatives to promote equitable and just access to high-quality care and services for individuals, families, communities, and populations, through partnerships that address social determinants of health to eliminate barriers, enhance facilitators, and improve population health outcomes.
- **Scholarship for the Nursing Discipline**- Synthesize, translate, generate, apply, and disseminate nursing knowledge to improve health and transform health care.
- **Quality and Safety**- Lead quality improvement initiatives to inform system- level policies and processes that promote a culture of safety and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through system effectiveness and individual performance.
- **Interprofessional Partnerships**- Lead interprofessional collaborations with individuals, families, communities, health care professionals, and other colleagues to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience, and improve outcomes.
- **Systems-Based Practice**- Design, lead, and evaluate system-wide initiatives to provide safe, quality, equitable, and value- based care to diverse populations.
- **Informatics and Healthcare Technologies**- Use healthcare technology and databases to gather, analyze, and synthesize, information that supports clinical decision making to provide care, and improve interprofessional communication in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.
- **Professionalism-** Lead with a professional identity grounded in nursing core values of compassionate caring, a collaborative disposition, civility, accountability, ethics and social justice for exemplary practice.
- **Personal, Professional and Leadership Development**- Lead, advocate for, and develop initiatives that promote a culture of personal and professional wellness and lifelong learning.

IV. DNP Online Program & Curricula

The URI DNP Online Program is set up as a cohort model with students entering each Fall term. Courses are offered in a sequential manner as outlined below to achieve program completion, 38 credits, in two years. Each term consists of 6-7 credits.

URI Doctor of Nursing Practice Online Course Sequence

Year	Session	Courses
Year 1	Fall I	**Online Orientation Session** **NUR 662A** Foundations of Healing Based Health Care (1.5 Cr.) **PHP 541A** Principles, Methods, & Applications of Epidemiology (1.5 Cr.)
	Fall II	**NUR 662B** Foundations of Healing Based Health Care (1.5 Cr.) **PHP 541B** Principles, Methods, & Applications of Epidemiology (1.5 Cr.)
Year 1	Spring I	**NUR 663A** Informatics in Health Care Settings (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 664A** Implementation Science (1.5 Cr.)
	Spring II	**NUR 663 B** Informatics in Health Care Settings (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 664B** Implementation Science (1.5 Cr.)
Year 1	Summer I	**NUR 676A** Integrative Health Practice for DNPs (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 674A** Strategies in Health Care Program Evaluation (1.5 Cr.)
	Summer II	**NUR 676B** Integrative Health Practice for DNPs (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 674B** Strategies in Health Care Program Evaluation (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 673A** Doctor of Nursing Practice Role Development (1 Cr.)
Year 2	Fall I	**NUR 672A** Health Care Policy for Whole Health (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 677A** DNP Practice Improvement Project Development (1.5 Cr.)
	Fall II	**NUR 672B** Health Care Policy for Whole Health (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 677B** DNP Practice Improvement Project Development (1.5 Cr.)
Year 2	Spring I	**NUR 675A** Leadership Theory to Practice (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 678A** DNP Practice Improvement Project: Project Implementation (1.5 Cr.)
	Spring II	**NUR 675B** Leadership Theory to Practice (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 678B** DNP Practice Improvement Project: Project Implementation (1.5 Cr.)
Year 2	Summer I	**NUR 679A** DNP Practice Improvement Project Evaluation & Dissemination (1.5 Cr.) **MBA 540** Organizational Decision Making & Design (3 Cr.)
	Summer II	**NUR 679B** DNP Practice Improvement Project Evaluation & Dissemination (1.5 Cr.) **NUR 673B** Doctor of Nursing Practice Role Development (1 Cr.)

*Courses are offered in the Sequence Outlined

Graduate Program Individualized Programs of Study

All URI graduate students are required to submit a signed individual program of study early in their graduate career. The College of Nursing requires all graduate students to file a program of study with the CON Graduate Program Office before or during the second term of study. The program of study must be signed by the student, their advisor and the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. It is then routed to the Graduate School. The program of study must include plans to complete all required courses in the curriculum and should include any courses being transferred in and any courses that the student plans to take to meet other curricular requirements and electives. Graduate Student Forms

V.   Academic Policies

All academic policies in the College of Nursing Graduate Program are consistent with those of the URI Graduate School. In some instances, the College of Nursing has policies that are more stringent than the minimum requirements put forth by the Graduate School.

Formatting for Papers and Dissertations

The College of Nursing uses APA format for all formal course papers, comprehensive written examinations and dissertations. Graduate students are referred to the American Psychological Association (APA) Manual 7th edition. APA. (2023). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

Grades & Grading

The following grade chart has been adopted in the College of Nursing and is used across all College of Nursing graduate programs:

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	77-79%	D	60-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	F	Below 60%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%		

Academic Standing & Academic Review

Although the Graduate School does award credit for graduate courses with earned grades of C or C+, CON graduate students with earned grades of less than a B- will undergo academic review within the College of Nursing. Students will also undergo academic review if they do not maintain a cumulative GPA of B (3.00) or better. Academic review within the College of Nursing will determine whether the student will: (a) continue in the program without special conditions; (b) repeat the course; (c) complete remediation; (d) continue on provisional status; or (e) be dismissed. If a student receives a grade of D, F, or U in a course, or does not maintain a cumulative average of B (3.00) or better, her/his status as a graduate student will also be reviewed by the Dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the CON

Associate Dean and graduate faculty. Such review may result in being placed on provisional status, being suspended, or being dismissed from the university. (See Graduate School Manual (GSM), Appendix A; Section A.26.1 for Graduate Student Academic Appeals procedures.)

Grade Appeal Procedures

If a student believes that a grade received in a course is incorrect, they have the right to appeal by following the procedure outlined below. Note: The student must begin the appeal process *within 5 calendar days* of the grade being posted.

If the appeal proceeds to steps 2, 3, or 4, the student must initiate each subsequent step within 2 calendar days of completing the previous step.

1. The student shall first discuss the grade with the instructor.
2. If unresolved, the student shall discuss concerns with the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, who will discuss the matter with the instructor.
3. If still unresolved, the student may submit a written appeal to the CON Associate Dean. If the CON Associate Dean believes the grade should be changed, and the instructor does not agree to the change, the CON Associate Dean shall issue a written decision to the student and the instructor which includes his/her recommended grade change, and his/her reasons for recommending the change. If the CON Associate Dean does not believe the grade should be changed, he/she shall issue a written decision to the student and Instructor stating his/her conclusions and reasons.
4. If still unresolved, the student may make a second written appeal to a CON Graduate Scholastic Standing Committee by notifying the CON Associate Dean of Graduate Programs of the further appeal. The CON Associate Dean of Graduate Programs will convene an ad hoc Graduate Scholastic Standing Committee comprised of 3 to 5 PhD-prepared faculty with graduate status. The Committee will provide the instructor with the opportunity to respond to the appeal, following which, unless the instructor voluntarily agrees to make a grade change acceptable to the student, the Committee will issue a final decision on the matter, stating its conclusions and reasons.

Grade of Incomplete

According to the University Manual (Section 8.53.20) and Graduate School Manual (Section 10.40), a graduate student will receive a grade of "'incomplete' in any course in which the coursework has been passing up until the time of a documented precipitating incident or condition, but has not been completed because of illness or another reason which in the opinion of the instructor justifies the report." "Incomplete" grades must be resolved and a grade change submitted within one year. An 'incomplete' not removed within one calendar year shall remain on the student's permanent record, except that the instructor with the approval of the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs may extend the time limit. In the instructor's absence, the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, may extend the time limit by which the incomplete work must be finished. Extensions are only granted under unusual and compelling circumstances and only when the student is passing the course at the time the incomplete is requested.

"The instructor shall accompany a report of 'incomplete' with a written explanation and file a copy of the explanation with the CON Associate Dean. The student receiving an 'incomplete' shall make satisfactory arrangements with the instructor to remove the deficiency and the new grade shall be immediately reported to Enrollment Services and the department Chair." (See UM 8.53.21) Because the CON does not have department chairs, the Associate Deans act in this capacity.

*Because of the nature of the DNP Online Program, an incomplete grade in any course may disrupt your progression in the program and delay you up to one year before subsequent courses are offered.

University Withdrawal (Voluntary)

Students may withdraw from College of Nursing and URI at any time. Graduate students who wish to withdraw from the University and College of Nursing must notify the CON Graduate Program Office, complete the Withdrawal form found on the Enrollment Services website and forward it to the Dean of the Graduate School for his/her signature.

Leave of Absence (LOA)

Students who must leave the University for a period of one semester or more, whether due to military service, illness, childbirth, adoption, financial hardship or other circumstances, should apply for a Leave of Absence (LOA). The student should contact the CON Graduate Program Office first. If approved, the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs will sign off on the LOA form. The formal request for LOA is then made by the student, in writing, to the Dean of the Graduate School, accompanied by the Leave of Absence form that has been endorsed by the CON Associate Dean. The written petition should be sufficiently specific so that the Dean of the Graduate School can determine whether or not the LOA is warranted. A LOA can be requested for one year or less. LOA requests must be submitted before the last day to add courses in the URI calendar. See Graduate School Manual Section 4.30.

Continuous Enrollment

Graduate students must remain continuously enrolled in one or more graduate-level credits until all requirements are met and they have received their degrees. Please see Graduate School Manual Section 4.40 for information related to continuous registration (CRG 999) for 1 credit each semester, after all coursework and dissertation credits are completed, until graduation.

Non-Matriculating Students

As is described in the Graduate School Manual Section 3.32, individuals holding a baccalaureate degree who are not students in a graduate degree program at URI may take graduate level courses during the academic year or in the summer as non-matriculating students. Non-matriculating students who wish to enroll in a graduate course in the College of Nursing must obtain permission from the CON Graduate Program Office prior to enrolling. Non-matriculating students may take a maximum of two graduate-level courses in the College of Nursing without matriculating.

 Notes: Non-matriculating students do not have the privileges regularly enjoyed by students in a degree program (see GSM Section 3.32). Non-matriculating students are not eligible for financial aid or

assistantships. Enrollment in courses as a non-matriculating student does not imply acceptance or enrollment in any University graduate program.

*Because of the course pre-requisite requirements in the DNP Online Program, all students must be enrolled in the program. Therefore, non-matriculating status is not available for these courses.

Transfer Credit

Graduate students may transfer in a maximum of 20% of the number of credits required for their degree. The DNP Online Program requires 38 credits, therefore the maximum credits allowed are 7.5, with the permission of the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and the Dean of the Graduate School. This maximum includes credits taken as a non-matriculating student at URI or course credit being transferred in from another university. Please refer to Graduate School Manual Section 7.20. Any credit transferred in to apply toward the degree may not have been used to fulfill the requirements for another degree and must have been earned within the past seven years.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

The College of Nursing and its Graduate Programs adhere to the University's standards regarding academic integrity. The University Manual and the Graduate School Manual list the expectations of the University concerning academic integrity as follows:

"Students are expected to be honest in all academic work related to the classroom, online, internships, co-ops, study abroad, independent studies, research projects, practica, or other experiential placements. #15-16-30." (See UM 8.27.10) "A student's name on any written exercise (theme, report, notebook, paper, examination) shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought and study, stated in the student's own words and produced without assistance, except as quotation marks, references and footnotes acknowledge the use of other sources of assistance. Occasionally, students may be authorized to work jointly, but such effort must be indicated as joint on the work submitted. Submitting the same paper for more than one course is considered a breach of academic integrity unless prior approval is given by the instructors." (See UM 8.27.11.)

"In preparing papers or themes, a student often needs or is required to employ sources of information or opinion. All such sources used in preparing to write or in writing a paper shall be listed in the bibliography. It is not necessary to give a footnote reference for specific facts which are common knowledge and have obtained general agreement. However, facts, observations and opinions which are new discoveries or are debatable shall be identified with correct footnote references even when restated in the student's own words. Material taken word for word from the written or oral statement of another person must be enclosed in quotation marks or otherwise clearly distinguished from the body of the text and the source cited. Paraphrasing or summarizing the contents of another's work usually is acceptable if the source is clearly identified but does not constitute independent work and may be rejected by the instructor. #21-22-6" (See UM 8.27.12, GSM A.13.4)

"Notebooks, homework and reports of investigations or experiments shall meet the same standards as all other written work. If any work is done jointly or if any part of an experiment or analysis is made by someone other than the writer, acknowledgment of this fact shall be made in the report submitted.

Obviously, it is dishonest to falsify or invent data." (UM8.27.13) "Written work presented as personal creation is assumed to involve no assistance other than incidental criticism from others." (UM 8.27.14).

 "In writing examinations, the student shall respond entirely on the basis of the student's own capacity without any assistance except that authorized by the instructor." (UM 8.27.15)

"Instructors shall have the explicit duty to take action in known cases of cheating or plagiarism. The instructor shall have the right to fail a student on the assignment on which the instructor has determined that a student has cheated or plagiarized." (UM 8.27.17)The circumstances of this failure shall be reported to the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. "The student may appeal the matter to the instructor's dean, and the decision by the dean shall be expeditious and final." (UM8.27.17) "If the violation warrants more severe censure, the instructor may recommend additional action to the instructor's dean. Upon this recommendation the dean may authorize the instructor to fail the student in the course. The student or instructor may appeal the dean's decision to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs whose decision on the appeal shall be final." (UM.27.18) Please also refer to the GSM A.13. For further information, please see Sections 9.18.10 – 9.25.10 of the University Manual.

VI. Policies Related to General Conduct & Professionalism

General Principles

Life in the academic community must be one of integrity, honesty, acceptance of responsibility, and a willingness to clearly and accurately represent oneself, one's work, and one's activities. The College of Nursing believes that professional conduct is critical to the practice of nursing, and fully supports the

University policies and the ANA Code of Ethics presented in the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses (ANA, 2025). Students are expected to observe the standards of professional conduct and ethics in all settings. Students are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the profession, the College of Nursing, and the University. Failure to meet these may make one subject to suspension or dismissal from the College of Nursing. Professional conduct and civility are expected and required at all times. Bullying, threatening, yelling, verbal and/or physical assaults and other types of intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Anyone exhibiting these types of behaviors may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the College of Nursing.

 The commission of illegal or unprofessional actions is also prohibited, including but not limited to violations of HIPPA or privacy regulations, illegal drug sales, possession or use, chemical impairment, violation of other state or federal laws, and/or sexual assault or sexual harassment.

 Please refer to the University Manual (8.27.10-8.27.20), and the University Catalog for the complete policy. Graduate School policies related to Academic Integrity can be found in Appendix A.10 of the Graduate School Manual.

Involuntary Class Withdrawal

Breach of professionalism is a serious offense which will be dealt with firmly. The College of Nursing reserves the right to remove (involuntarily withdraw) a student from a course for a minimum of one day or up to the remainder of the semester in the event it is determined that a student's behavior or actions violate essential program or professional standards or requirements, threaten harm to self or others, and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue. The student will be required to attend a mandatory meeting with the CON Associate Dean for Graduate Programs to discuss any such incidents or problematic behavior.

Non-Academic Suspension or Dismissal from a Program

In the event it is determined that a student's behavior or actions violate essential program or professional standards or requirements and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue in the program, the CON may suspend or dismiss a student. The College will normally provide notification to the student of the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and give the student an opportunity to address those reasons before the College deliberates and makes a final decision to suspend or dismiss the student. The nature of the opportunity provided to the student (e.g., a less formal meeting with a College administrator, or a more formal hearing before multiple College officials or a panel, etc.) will depend on the nature and duration of the sanction and the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and other relevant factors. The College reserves the right to immediately suspend the student if the student's continuation in the program constitutes an imminent risk to the student or to other students in the program, or to patients, or for other compelling reasons.

Diversity and Inclusion

The CON embraces diversity and understands that each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom. These differences can be along dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, age, ability, religious or political beliefs, or other differences in lived experiences and/or ideologies. The inclusion and valuing of these differences enriches learning and in and out of our classrooms. Each member of the University has the responsibility to foster an environment of inclusion, acceptance, mutual respect and understanding.

Anti-Bias Statement

At URI and the CON, we respect the rights and dignity of each individual and group. We reject prejudice and intolerance, and we work to understand differences. We believe that equity and inclusion are critical components for campus community members to thrive. If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to submit a report to the URI Bias Response Team. There you will also find people and resources to help.

Tobacco Policy

The College of Nursing (CON) is dedicated to maintaining a healthy work and learning environment. While the College already prohibits smoking inside its buildings and facilities, the CON policy prohibits smoking or use of tobacco products by students at any time when representing the College of Nursing.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Violation of the University's drug and alcohol policies prohibiting illegal use or possession of any controlled substance without a prescription while enrolled in the College of Nursing is considered a serious offense and may result in suspension or dismissal.

Social Media Policy

Social media, such as X (formally Twitter), YouTube,Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok etc. are to be used in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) The purpose of this policy is to maintain the protection of sensitive and confidential information and to uphold professionalism.

CON students, faculty and staff must always protect individuals' rights to privacy and confidentiality and communicate sensitive and confidential information in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies (including the policies of clinical training sites), including the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when applicable. Members of the CON community are expected to observe the American Nurses Association's Principles for Social Networking:

ANA's Social Media Principles

1. Be aware of your audience. Make sure that the content of your posts is appropriate for the people who will be seeing it and may share it with others.
2. Maintain your professionalism. Avoid posting anything that could be considered unprofessional or inappropriate, such as photos or videos of patients.
3. Know your social media policy. Familiarize yourself with your employer's social media policy and adhere to it across all the social media platforms that you choose to use.
4. Secure your social media profiles. Review and set-up the respective privacy settings for the social media platforms that you choose to use.
5. Share credible information only. The dissemination of credible and reliable information protects the health and well-being of the public.
6. Engage with respectful content. Do not share content that is harmful, disparaging, racist, homophobic, or derogatory.

The policy requires that all:

- Be aware of maintaining professional boundaries while using electronic media.
- Follow applicable HIPAA regulations at all times. Identifiable information concerning patients/clinical activities must not be posted in any online forum.
- Protect confidential, sensitive and proprietary information. Do not share or post any information related to nurse-patient contact or about the College of Nursing.
- Do not post comments on social media sites about patients, clinical facilities, employees of facilities, faculty or other students as these posts violate the individual's right to privacy and may incur liability - even if the posts do not specifically identify individuals.
- Do not make disparaging remarks about patients, employers, or co-workers, even if they are not identified.

- Do not use mobile devices to take photos or videos of patients or patient information.
- Use personal electronic devices only as authorized by faculty and clinical affiliates.
- Report any breach of confidentiality or privacy to a CON administrator or faculty member.

Violations of patient privacy will be subject to applicable HIPAA policies, procedures and sanctions, and may subject the student to other sanctions imposed by the College. Students who wrongly share confidential information, or otherwise engage in unprofessional communication, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Nursing program.

Accommodation for Qualified Students with Disabilities

Students are expected to notify faculty at the beginning of the semester if any special considerations are required in the classroom or clinical setting. If any special considerations are required, it is expected that the student will notify the faculty of the appropriate paperwork from the office of Disability, Access, & Inclusion.

Email Policy

All email communications to students by the College, or its faculty and staff, will be via the URI email system, with communications sent to the students' URI assigned email address. Students are also required to use their University of Rhode Island email account for all communications with college faculty or staff. Students are expected to obtain a URI email account as soon as possible and frequently monitor their URI email for announcements. Faculty and staff email addresses may be obtained by searching the directory on URI's website (https://directory.uri.edu/).

Brightspace

The College of Nursing – Grad Student Resource Brightspace site serves as a communication portal between CON graduate students, faculty and administrators. Important information on research opportunities, events, job postings, important dates, deadlines, and graduation are posted on this site. It is important that all CON graduate students become familiar with Brightspace and check the College of Nursing site frequently.

Student Complaint Procedures

While every effort will be made to resolve issues within the College of Nursing, students should be aware that URI Online provides links for procedures to address concerns and issues through University pathways. These can be found at: https://web.uri.edu/online/student-resources/student-complaint-procedures/

VII. DNP Clinical Policies & Procedures

The DNP Online Program requires clinical hours for completion. DNP education requires 1,000 hours of post-baccalaureate clinical practice hours. As a post-master's program, the URI Online DNP program accepts 500 hours completed in your Master of Nursing degree requirement, leaving 500 hours to be completed within the context of your Practice Improvement Project (PIP). An individualized review, gap analysis, of previous work will occur with your assigned advisor/major professor, to determine the final number of hours required. NUR classes in your final three terms will be the bulk of your clinical hours, which you will be required to track. However, preliminary work completed in earlier classes may contribute to the final tally once verified by your major professor. Clinical hours in this post-masters DNP program are focused on leadership and role transition intended to synthesize knowledge to address practice issues impacting groups of patients, health care organizations or systems. Students are expected to choose an organization, and project champion within, to define the clinical practice gap and implement a scholarly, evidence-based, PIP.

Clinical Placements and Credentialing

Clinical placements typically require, at minimum, an affiliation agreement for students to complete their DNP practice hours and for some, a formal contract. In the CON, these agreements are managed by our full-time clinical coordinator, Dr. Donna Donilon (ddonilon@uri.edu) and our Graduate Program Specialist, Cassie White (cwhite481@uri.edu)

Documentation of Clinical Experiences

It is the student's responsibility to maintain clinical hour documentation regarding all DNP clinical practice hours. Documentation logs can be found in the PIP Guidelines. Students should consider an equal distribution of hours across the three PIP focused NUR courses, which is approximately 167 in each class if your gap analysis determines that 500 hours satisfy the requirement. Adjustments to increasing hours may be required based on your gap analysis.

Students are responsible for retaining all records of the program, including but not limited to practice hour logs, course syllabi, immunization records, and other essential program materials. If there is a future need for this documentation, the CON and graduate program do track and retain these records.

Clinical Experience Health Requirements

Agencies in which you will be completing your DNP clinical practice hours may have specific health requirements you may need to fulfill. The clinical coordinator may be notified of such requirements when an agreement is established. These may include but are not limited to the following:

Drug testing

Health Screening & Immunizations Documentation

- Current physical exam
- Tuberculosis screening test
- Ishihara color blindness screening
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) immunization

- Varicella (chicken Pox) disease or immunization.
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis immunization
- Influenza vaccination or exemption
- Hepatitis B Vaccination
- COVID-19 vaccination or exemption

NOTE: Individuals who have negative serum titers to rubella, rubeola, mumps, varicella or Hepatitis B must be vaccinated. Individuals with low serum titers should consult with their health care provider about boosters or revaccination.

NOTE: Departments of Health in each state of residency will have their own requirements for healthcare workers for immunizations and PPE which will be required of students completing DNP clinical practice hours. The above is a typical summary but not intended to be read as complete.

Liability/Malpractice Insurance

DNP students are required to carry individual liability insurance for their clinical practice hours. Although clinical practice hours are indirect, this policy aims to protect students. Although URI carries liability insurance that technically covers students, the university's insurance carrier's primary responsibility could be to the university, not to the student.

There are a number of professional liability/malpractice insurance carriers that provide policies to cover work completed as a DNP student. If you already have malpractice insurance, please check with your carrier to confirm your DNP clinical practice hours are covered or if an additional rider may be necessary. Students should contact their insurance company before the start of any DNP clinical practice hours. If you do not have malpractice insurance, it is easy to get a policy with quotes online and prices range from $200-$350 per year.