FSU | COLLEGE OF NURSING

DNP STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025- 2026

Welcome to the Florida State University Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Dear Graduate Student,

This moment marks more than just an acceptance into a graduate program; it marks your entry into the highest echelon of clinical nursing practice. By choosing Florida State University for your Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, you are not merely advancing your career, you are accepting a charge to reshape the very landscape of modern healthcare.

The DNP is born from a critical need in our society. The literature has long suggested that the complexity of modern medicine requires a new breed of nurse, one who is not only a Master of Clinical Care but also an architect of healthcare delivery. As you step into the FSU College of Nursing, you are stepping into a future where you become that architect. We know that DNP prepared nurses are the essential bridge between the laboratory and the bedside. Where there has historically been a gap between scientific discovery and patient application, you will stand in the breach, translating evidence into immediate, life-saving practice.

At FSU, we are driven by the knowledge that advanced nursing leadership correlates directly with better patient outcomes. As you progress through this curriculum, you will evolve into a clinician who does more than treat symptoms; you will diagnose and cure systemic inefficiencies. You are training to become the leader who lowers infection rates, reduces hospital readmissions, and ensures that quality care is accessible to underserved populations. The research tells us that when DNP prepared nurses lead, safety scores rise, and health disparities diminish. This is the "Unconquered" spirit in action, the refusal to accept the status quo when better outcomes are possible.

You will leave this program with the authority to influence health policy and the confidence to lead interdisciplinary teams. You will be the voice that advocates for the patient at the boardroom table and the expert who brings a holistic perspective to complex medical challenges. We are cultivating you to be a transformational leader; one who empowers staff, improves organizational culture, and ultimately elevates the standard of care for every life you touch.

We are honored to welcome you to the Garnet and Gold family. The journey ahead is rigorous, designed to challenge your intellect and expand your clinical boundaries, but the destination is profound. You are becoming the future of nursing, the guardian of patient safety, and the leader our healthcare system desperately needs.

Welcome to FSU! Let's get to work. Here's to you and the incredible journey that lies ahead as a Graduate Nole Nurse!

Best Wishes,

Kathleen Wilson

Kathleen Wilson

Kathleen P. Wilson, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, FAANP, FNAP, DipACLM, FAAN
Assistant Dean & Clinical Professor, Graduate Programs

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT

Florida State University will be among the nation's most entrepreneurial and innovative universities, transforming the lives of our students and shaping the future of our state and society through exceptional teaching, research, creative activity, and service. We will amplify these efforts through our distinctive climate-one that places a premium on interdisciplinary inquiry and draws from the rich intellectual and personal experiences of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. These three forces: entrepreneurship, interdisciplinarity, and experiential breadth to deepen FSU's impact and result in a powerful return to our students and the people of Florida for their continued support and trust.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of the liberal arts. The university is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavors, and service. The university strives to instill the strength, skill, and character essential for lifelong learning, personal responsibility, and sustained achievement within a community that fosters free inquiry and diverse viewpoints.

COLLEGE OF NURSING VISION STATEMENT

The College of Nursing at Florida State University will be a pre-eminent nursing education and research leader that inspires intellectual discovery, embraces diverse viewpoints, and shapes students, faculty, and alumni to become leaders and trusted professionals.

COLLEGE OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

Florida State University, College of Nursing educates clinicians, leaders, scholars, and advanced practitioners who can enhance the quality of life for people of all cultures, economic levels, and geographic locations. The CON integrates the liberal arts and sciences with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for lifelong learning, personal responsibility, and sustained achievement in the nursing profession and the communities in which our graduates reside.

COLLEGE OF NURSING HISTORY AND MILESTONES

1950   Ms. Vivian M. Duxbury appointed as Dean
1950   First class of BSN students admitted
1951   RNs from diploma programs admitted to BSN program
1951   First male student admitted
1951   State Board of Nursing gives provisional approval to FSU School of Nursing
1952   State Board of Nursing and Registration gave full accreditation to FSU School of Nursing
1952   NLN accreditation awarded
1972   Dr. Shirley Martin appointed as Dean
1974   Dr. Marjorie Sparkman was appointed Interim Dean
1975   Self-paced and time variable format introduced for RN students
1975   New four-story building completed
1976   Dr. Emilie D. Henning appointed as Dean
1984   Dr. Evelyn T. Singer appointed as Dean
1985   Four students admitted to MSN program
1985   Funding obtained from the Division of Nursing, Department of Health and Human Services to begin MSN degree program
1987   Graduate Program accredited by NLN
1998   New RN-to-BSN web-based curriculum implemented for students living in Ft. Myers, St. Petersburg, Lake City, and Mariana
1999   Nurse Educator track added to MSN program
2000   School of Nursing building named Vivian M. Duxbury Hall
2001   Dr. Katherine P. Mason appointed as Dean
2001   New community-based undergraduate curriculum implemented
2003   Online RN-to-BSN program offered statewide
2004   CCNE accreditation awarded
2004   Graduate core nursing courses offered online
2005   Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum revised
2005   Grant received from Florida Department of Education to expand graduate education via interactive television to six sites: Pensacola, Fort Walton, Panama City, Mariana, and Madison
2005   Graduate nursing education courses offered online
2006   School of Nursing becomes College of Nursing
2007   Nurse Practitioner courses offered online
2007   Dr. Lisa Ann Plowfield appointed as Dean
2008   FSU Board of Trustees approves Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program
2009   Curriculum Revisions to Undergraduate BSN program
2009   Students admitted to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program
2010   Students admitted to the Accelerated BSN program
2010   Partnership with TMH to establish TMH Mentored Nurse Research Program
2011   Dr. Dianne Speake appointed as Interim Dean
2011   First DNP students graduate
2011   DNP program accredited by CCNE

2012	Nurse Leader track offered to MSN Program
2013	TMH Center for Research and Evidence Based Practice funded by TMH Foundation
2013	Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle appointed Dean
2015	Adoption of new strategic plan of CON
2015	HRSA grant awarded for Accelerated Veteran's BSN program
2015	QER 5-year review of graduate program
2016	CCNE accreditation of undergraduate and graduate programs
2017	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate program offered online
2017	CCNE accreditation of DNP and PMH Certificate program approved for 10 years
2019	Dr. Laurie Grubbs appointed as Interim Dean
2019	CON received the $1.5 million grant from United Health Foundation
2019	University approval to convert nursing graduate program to online
2019	University approval of the Adult Gerontology Acute Care DNP major
2019	University approval of Psychiatric Mental Health NP DNP major
2019	University approval of Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP certificate
2021	University approval of Military & Veteran Mental Health Certificate Program
2021	University approval of Family Nurse Practitioner certificate program
2021	Dr. Jing Wang appointed as Dean
2021	University approval of Lifestyle Medicine DNP major and Certificate Program
2022	University approval of Executive Health Systems Leadership DNP major
2024	Artificial Intelligence track added to the MSN program

CURRICULUM

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Given the mission of the University and the College of Nursing, our programs are grounded in a set of guiding principles shaped by the expertise and beliefs of our faculty. These principles underscore our commitment to:

- **The Core of Nursing**: Addressing human beings within the dynamic context of health.
- **Nursing as an Evidence-Based Profession**: Advancing high-quality practice rooted in research and best practices.
- **Nursing Education as Lifelong Growth**: Fostering a continuous commitment to learning, innovation, and adaptability.

These beliefs shape the foundation of the nursing education programs at Florida State University:

Foundational Preparation: Our programs emphasize a broad-based foundation in liberal studies, professional values, and the knowledge and skills needed for advanced practice at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. This foundation reflects our commitment to the standards of the AACN Essentials (2021), NONPF (2022), and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM, 2025).

Nursing Knowledge Development: Nursing knowledge is an evolving blend of practice, theory, research, and interdisciplinary insights, adapting and applying relevant findings to professional practice. This integration supports students in all tracks: Clinical/NP, Executive Leadership, Education, and AI in Healthcare (AACN Essentials, 2021).

Unique Nursing Contributions: Nurses bring a distinct combination of knowledge, judgment, skills, and compassion to healthcare teams. Clinical and Nurse Practitioner (NP) students develop advanced clinical reasoning, judgment, and assessment skills, Executive Leadership students focus on strategic decision-making and organizational leadership (AONL Competencies, 2023), while Educator track students cultivate teaching expertise aligned with NLN Core Competencies (2020), and AI in Healthcare students learn to apply data-driven insights to improve care outcomes (AACN Essentials, 2021; NONPF, 2022).

Cultural Competency and Global Awareness: Nurses are prepared to deliver safe, culturally competent, and high-quality care in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. This includes Executive and Clinical students focusing on equitable patient outcomes and AI track students advancing culturally sensitive innovations in healthcare delivery (AACN Essentials, 2021; NONPF 2022).

Commitment to Evidence-Based Practice: Nursing practice is grounded in scientific inquiry and is designed to expand the evidence base of the profession, enhancing both clinical and system-wide healthcare practices. This approach is fundamental for Clinical/NP, Leadership, and AI students who lead quality improvement, and for Educator students who translate research into effective educational practices (ACLM, AACN Essentials, 2021).

Baccalaureate as the Entry-Level Standard: Recognized as the minimal entry requirement for professional nursing, baccalaureate education prepares generalists and serves as the foundation for graduate education, leading to advanced roles and specialties in Clinical/NP, Leadership, Education, and AI fields (AACN Essentials, 2021).

Essential Aspects of Generalist Nursing Practice: Direct patient care, health promotion, disease prevention, and population health are core components of generalist nursing practice. For Clinical/NP students, this foundation is applied in advanced settings; for AI students, in data and technology integration to support care, and for Leadership and Educator students, in improving organizational and educational practices (AACN Essentials, 2021; NONPF, 2022).
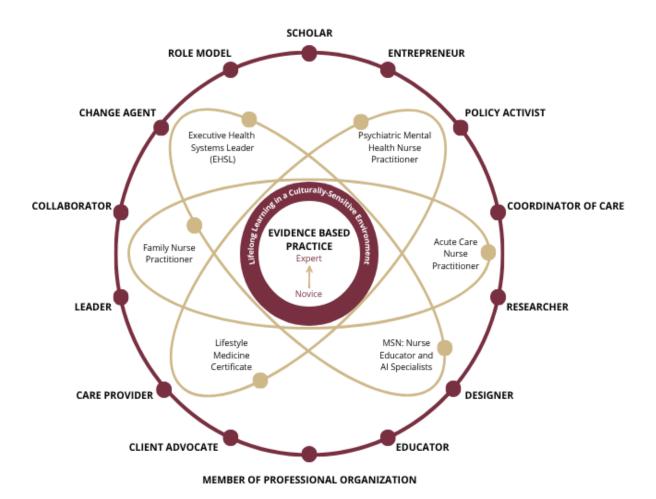
Advanced and Specialized Graduate Education: Graduate education enhances professional practice, enabling Clinical/NP students to provide advanced care, Executive students to lead healthcare organizations effectively, Educator students to shape future practitioners, and AI students to integrate artificial intelligence and data analytics in healthcare (NONPF, 2022; AONL Competencies, 2023; NLN, 2020).

Interprofessional Collaboration and Patient-Centered Care: Nursing education prepares students to deliver patient-centered care as collaborative members of interprofessional teams. Clinical/NP students focus on comprehensive, patient-centered approaches, Leadership students on strategic health system partnerships, Educator students on fostering interprofessional understanding, and AI students on developing cross-disciplinary tech solutions for better care (AACN Essentials, 2021; AONL, 2023; National Academy of Medicine, 2023).

Lifestyle Medicine Integration: FSU is the first and only approved academic pathway for the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, reflecting our commitment to holistic, preventive care across all tracks. Clinical/NP students integrate these principles into patient care, Leadership students apply them in healthcare systems, Educator students incorporate them in curriculum, and AI students bring innovative lifestyle interventions to tech-enabled practice (ACLM, 2025).

This framework underscores FSU College of Nursing's commitment to excellence, preparing nurses not only as skilled professionals but as transformative leaders who advance the profession and positively impact patient and community health. We are proud to support our students' growth as they contribute to the evolving field of nursing in diverse and influential ways.

GRADUATE PROGRAM CONCEPTUAL MAP

The conceptual map of the graduate program consists of three major parts: the core circle, elliptical inner orbits, and the outer orbits. The graduate program is built upon core professional nursing values and life-long learning. An undergraduate baccalaureate degree in nursing is a mandatory criterion for entering the graduate program.

The center of the model depicts the lifelong learning in a culturally sensitive environment encircling Benner's Model of Novice to Expert (1984, 2004) depicting students' progression through the program and beyond graduation. Additionally, the core is based on evidence-based practice representing the knowledge content required for mastering, applying, and fine-tuning the concepts and processes students master as they move through the curriculum.

The orbits on the second layer indicate the seven majors or roles students may choose as a focus of their studies: family nurse practitioner (FNP), psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP), and acute care nurse practitioner (AGACNP), executive health systems leader (EHSL), lifestyle medicine professional (LM), nurse educator (NE), nursing artificial intelligence (AI) specialists which include the various healthcare providers certificate programs.

The outer orbit depicts the major expected roles students will evidence as they move from novice to expert. These roles are expected of students in all curriculum tracks in the graduate program.

FSU College of Nursing Academics: https://nursing.fsu.edu/academics

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN): https://nursing.fsu.edu/academics/master-science-nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP): https://nursing.fsu.edu/academics/doctor-nursing-practice-dnp
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD): https://nursing.fsu.edu/academics/doctor-philosophy-nursing-phd

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) PROGRAM

DNP Program Outcomes

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of clinical practice in the profession of nursing. The program is designed in accordance with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (2021), National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) Core competencies (2022), along with the *NONPF Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies* (Population-focus nurse practitioner competencies (2022).

Program Outcome	Essentials	QSEN Competencies
Demonstrate advanced nursing knowledge by synthesizing and using evidence from nursing, liberal arts, natural and social sciences to plan a systematic, holistic, and collaborative approach to care delivery for individuals and populations.	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Quality Improvement Safety Teamwork and Collaboration Patient Centered Care Evidence-Based Practice
Integrate knowledge into practice and policy initiatives to encourage cultural sensitivity, reduce health disparities and improve access to quality care locally, nationally, and globally.	1,2,3,5,6,7	Quality improvement Safety Evidence-Based Practice Patient-Centered Care
Apply data analytic methods and use of information systems and technology to evaluate and integrate knowledge that will improve programs, outcomes, and systems of care.	1,3,5,7,8	Quality Improvement Safety Evidence-Based Practice Informatics
Exhibit the judgement and behaviors of a nurse leader through reflective practice, accountability, and adherence to nursing's set of core values.	2,9,10	Safety Patient-Centered Care Teamwork and Collaboration

Influence intentional change by leading and participating in interprofessional partnerships that promote patient engagement, continued growth, flexibility, advocacy, and service.	2,6,9,10	Quality Improvement Safety Patient-Centered Care Teamwork and Collaboration

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a terminal, practice-focused doctorate that prepares nurses to lead at the highest levels in clinical and executive roles. Per the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2021) guidelines, all DNP students nationwide must complete a minimum of 1,000 post-baccalaureate clinical hours (direct and indirect) to qualify for degree conferral. Students bringing in clinical hours from prior programs will have their hours reviewed to determine eligible credit toward this requirement. Each specialized DNP track is designed to meet both these standards and the unique competencies required in advanced nursing practice.

DNP Family Nurse Practitioner BSN to DNP

This program is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of clinical practice as Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP). The FNP curriculum follows the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (2021), the NONPF Core Competencies (2022), and Population Focus Nurse Practitioner Competencies (2022). Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to sit for the FNP certification exam and will be awarded the DNP degree. MSN-DNP options are available, and students should refer to the FNP track-specific supplement for detailed track information.

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner BSN to DNP

This program is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of clinical practice as Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP). The AG-ACNP curriculum follows the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing, the NONPF Core Competencies (2022), and Population Focus Nurse Practitioner Competencies (2022). Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to sit for the AG-ACNP certification exam and will be awarded the DNP degree. MSN-DNP options are available, and students should refer to the AG- ACNP track-specific supplement for detailed track information.

Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner BSN to DNP

This program is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of clinical practice as Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). The PMHNP curriculum follows the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing, the NONPF Core Competencies, and Population Focus Nurse Practitioner Competencies (2022). Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to sit for the PMHNP certification exam and will be awarded the DNP degree. MSN-DNP options are available, and students should refer to the PMHNP track-specific supplement for detailed track information.

Executive Health Systems Leadership DNP

This expertly crafted Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares the next generation of Nurse Executives for advanced roles in Executive Health Systems Leadership (EHSL). Modeled after the AONL Nurse Executive Competencies and aligned with the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing, this program equips graduates with the skills and knowledge to lead complex healthcare organizations. Upon completion of the EHSL program, students will be awarded the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. BSN-DNP and post-masters-DNP options are available, and students should refer to the EHSL track-specific supplement for detailed track information.

Lifestyle Medicine DNP

The Lifestyle Medicine DNP program at FSU College of Nursing has been accepted as the first university program in the nation to join the American College of Lifestyle Medicine's (ACLM) Full Academic Pathway. This prestigious recognition aligns our curriculum with ACLM standards, ensuring that graduates are uniquely prepared to integrate lifestyle medicine into advanced practice, improving patient outcomes through evidence-based, holistic approaches. This DNP program stands as a trailblazer in lifestyle medicine education, preparing clinicians to lead the way in preventative and sustainable healthcare transformation. MSN-DNP option is available, and students should refer to the LM track-specific supplement for detailed track information.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Post-Master's Certificate programs at FSU College of Nursing are designed to meet the highest standards in nurse practitioner education, adhering to the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) guidelines (2022). Each certificate track requires a minimum of 750 population-specific clinical hours, a rigorous benchmark necessary to qualify graduates for national certification. FSU was an early adopter of this elevated standard, demonstrating our commitment to producing the most skilled, knowledgeable, and effective nurse practitioners in the nation. This dedication ensures that our graduates are exceptionally prepared to lead and deliver quality, patient-centered care in diverse healthcare settings. All entering graduate students must have the following graduate level courses prior to starting the program: **Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology.**

A certificate student must maintain a cumulative grade point of at least 3.0 in all graduate courses. No course hours with a grade below "B" will be credited for this certificate. All clinical practical labs must be completed with a Satisfactory.

Adult Gerontology Acute Care (AGACNP) Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program of Study
A total of 22 semester hours and 780 clinical hours

Semester 1 (Fall): (6 hours)
NGR 6217C   Acute Care Skills (2) (120 CH)
NGR 6210   Acute Care I (3)
NGR 6210L   Acute Care Practicum I (1) (60 CH) (*some students willed AC Skills as well
            NGR6217C

Semester 2 (Spring): (6 hours)
NGR 6211   Acute Care II (3)
NGR 6211L   Acute Care Practicum II (3) (180 CH)

Semester 3 (Summer): (6 hours)
NGR 6212   Acute Care III (3)
NGR 6212L   Acute Care Practicum III (3) (180 CH)
Semester 4 (Fall): (4 hours)
NGR 6213L   Acute Care Practicum IV (4) (240 CH)

If a student has not taken an advanced skills course prior to admission, one must also be taken

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Lifestyle Medicine Certificate Program of Study
15 semester hours and 60 clinical hours

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Fall Semester (6 Credit Hours)
- NGR 6591: Introduction to Lifestyle Medicine: The Six Pillars of Health (3 credits)
- NGR 6246: Empowering Behavioral Change: The Provider as Expert and Coach (3 credits)

Spring Semester (5 Credit Hours)
- NGR 6167: Food as Medicine: The Nutrition Health Connection (3 credits)
- NGR 6592: The Exercise Prescription: Improving Physical and Mental Health through Movement (2 credits)

Summer Semester (4 Credit Hours)
- NGR 6593L: Integrating Lifestyle Medicine into Clinical Practice (1 credit) - 60 Clinical Hours (CH)
- NGR 6590: The Role of Lifestyle Medicine in Improving Mental Health (3 credits)

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Psychiatric/Mental Health (PMHNP) Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program of Study
24 semester hours and 780 clinical hours

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Semester 1 (Fall): (7 hours)

NGR 5538   Psychopharmacology for Psychiatric Nursing (3)
NGR5053L   Advance Psychiatric Assessment and Diagnostic Lab (2) (120 CH)
NGR5053   Advanced Psychiatric Assessment and Diagnostics (2)

Semester 2 (Spring): (6 hours)
NGR 5503   Psychiatric/MH Nurse Practitioner I: Individual Psychotherapy (3)
NGR 5503L   Psychiatric/MH NP I Lab: Individual Psychotherapy Clinical lab (3) (180 CH)

Semester 3 (Summer): (6 hours)
NGR 5508   Psychiatric/MH Nurse Practitioner II: Family & Group Psychotherapy (3)
NGR 5508L   Psychiatric/MH NP II Lab: Family & Group Psychotherapy (3) (180 CH)

Semester 4 (Fall): (5 hours)
NGR 5504L   Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Practicum (5) (300 CH)

For more detailed information about the DNP Program, please refer to the DNP Handbook at:
[DNP Student Handbook](#)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree is designed to prepare nurses for advanced practice roles in clinical, educational, and leadership settings within the nursing profession. The program is structured according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials for advanced-level practice. This curriculum supports the development of critical thinking, evidence-based practice, and specialized knowledge, equipping graduates to excel in diverse healthcare environments and meet the evolving demands of the profession.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Education

The MSN in Nursing Education program is designed to cultivate expert nurse educators who will shape the future of nursing through teaching, leadership, and mentorship. Grounded in the National League for Nursing (NLN) Nurse Educator Competencies, this 40-credit program includes 500 clinical hours focused on hands-on teaching practice, curriculum design, and instructional innovation. Our graduates are equipped with advanced skills in educational theory, assessment, and technology integration, preparing them to effectively educate and inspire the next generation of nurses in academic, clinical, and community settings.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in AI in Healthcare

As the first MSN program in the nation with a concentration in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare, this 40-credit program with 500 clinical hours places FSU College of Nursing at the forefront of innovation in nursing education. Led by nationally recognized faculty who are pioneering the integration of AI, the MSN in AI in Healthcare prepares students to leverage data analytics, machine learning, and healthcare technology to enhance patient outcomes, optimize clinical workflows, and drive advancements in precision medicine. This groundbreaking program equips graduates to lead and transform healthcare delivery into an increasingly digital and data-driven world.

For more detailed information about the MSN Program, please refer to the MSN Handbook at:
MSN Handbook

SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the Scholarly Engagement requirement is to ensure that doctoral students are active participants in the scholarly community. To meet the Scholarly Engagement requirement, doctoral students should interact with faculty and peers in ways that may include enrolling in courses; attending seminars, symposia, and conferences; engaging in collaborative study and research beyond the university campus; and utilizing the library, laboratories, and other facilities provided by the university. The goal is to prepare students to be scholars who can independently acquire, evaluate, and extend knowledge, as well as develop themselves as effective communicators and disseminators of knowledge.

PROGRESSION IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Students in the graduate program are required to make a grade of "B" or better in all graduate nursing coursework. Additionally, nursing students are required to make a Satisfactory (S) in all graduate clinical courses. Any course grade below a "B" or "Unsatisfactory" cannot count toward the graduate degree. A student who fails to achieve a grade of "B" or better, or a Satisfactory in a clinical course is required to take the course again. If a student is unsuccessful in a clinical course, they must retake the course including retaking all required clinical hours for that course again. A student who fails to achieve a grade of "B" or better, or a Satisfactory in a clinical course a second time in a course cannot continue in the graduate program. Additionally, if a student receives less than a B or an Unsatisfactory in two courses the student will be dismissed from the program. If transfer or waived credits are accepted, they must be a B or better.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

FSU GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

Students are encouraged to access University policies related to graduate students at:
http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/

Seven-Year Timeline

The work for graduate nursing degrees must be completed within seven (7) years from the time the student first registers for graduate credit. Any graduate work transferred from another institution must have commenced not more than seven (7) years prior to completion of the degree for the credits to be applicable to the graduate nursing degree.

Registration for Final Term

For doctoral students and master's students in a thesis-type program, registration shall be required in the final term in which a degree requiring a thesis, dissertation, or treatise is granted. If a student does not make the manuscript final submission deadline for a given term but completes all degree requirements before the first day of the next term, it is possible to waive the registration requirement. To be eligible for this registration exemption, all degree requirements, including manuscript clearance, must be completed prior to the first day of the next term. If the student has not been enrolled for the previous two terms, readmission is required before registration.

Graduation

During the first two weeks of the term in which a student expects to receive a degree, application for graduation must be made with the Office of the Registrar, Graduation Section, (850.644.5850). An online application for graduation is available at
https://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/ .

Academic Requirements

The Graduate Program seeks to maintain its academic integrity and that of its students in accordance with university graduate policies. Students in the College of Nursing graduate program are required to have a "B" (3.0) or better in all graduate nursing coursework. Any course grade below a "B" (3.0) cannot count toward the graduate degree. A student who fails to achieve a grade of "B" or better in a course is required to retake the course. A student who fails to achieve a grade of "B" or better a second time in a course cannot continue in the graduate program (CON Student Policy G-1).

In addition, students are required to maintain at least an 80% average on didactic exams and clinical SOAP notes to progress in the program. Graduate students must also maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all nursing coursework each semester. Failure to do so will result in the student being placed on academic probation. During the semester on probation, the student is expected to raise their Nursing GPA to 3.0 or higher. Inability to meet this expectation will require that the student be dismissed from the program.

CON STUDENT POLICIES

Complete College of Nursing Policies are located at: https://nursing.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-handbook-and-policies. Policies noted with "S" and "G" are relevant for the graduate student in the CON.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

COLLEGE OF NURSING RESOURCES
https://nursing.fsu.edu/academics/student-resources

College of Nursing Announcements

Provides Information and announcements pertaining to the College of Nursing and the Graduate Nursing Program. Students are encouraged to check this site weekly to keep informed of upcoming events and updated materials. Go to nursing.fsu.edu for more information on available resources.

College of Nursing Graduate Canvas Site

Online organizational site for the Graduate Program at the College of Nursing
Provides general information, guidelines, clinical paperwork, forms for the various graduate programs in the CON. https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/41659

DNP/Certificate Preceptors & Clinicals

https://nursing.fsu.edu/student-resources/dnpcertificate-preceptors-clinicals

CON Simulation and Skills Laboratory

Simulation and Skills Laboratory is a suite for practice and demonstration located on the third floor of the College of Nursing Building. The facility is fully equipped with a wide variety of supplies and equipment. It may be used for practicing such skills as advanced health assessment and can also provide graduate Teaching Assistants practice teaching opportunities with undergraduate students. The Skills Lab also houses the adult and pediatric Human Patient Simulators. For practice with either, arrange dates and times with Lab Coordinator at (850) 645-0657.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

Establishing a Student Internet Account
All FSU faculty, staff, students, retirees, and alumni are eligible to receive email accounts. For most users, the email login and password credentials will be the same as their FSUID. Students email addresses are created after activating an FSUID. Students are normally issued email addresses based on the first initial of their first, middle, last name, and the 2-digit year of admission. For more information go to Information Technology Services at http://its.fsu.edu.

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College of Nursing Canvas

For Canvas or Digital Learning Support; https://odl.fsu.edu/canvas

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FSU Information Technology Services

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There is a Guide to Computing at FSU and other information available from their web site http://www.its.fsu.edu and the help desk is at http://helpdesk.fsu.edu.

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FSU Computer Store

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Handles all computer purchase programs enabling students, faculty and staff to purchase Apple, Compaq, Dell and Gateway computers at educational prices. Information and pricing is available at the Computer Store web site http://www.bkstr.com/floridastatestore/shop/technology/computers-and-tablets.

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FSU Bookstore

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Handles all software packages and offers exceptional education pricing. Software is available in the store and on-line at http://www.fsu.bkstr.com or (850) 644-2072.

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LIBRARY RESOURCES

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 The **College of Nursing**: https://guides.lib.fsu.edu/nursing

The **College of Medicine Medical Library** Though the emphasis is on delivering information electronically whenever available, the Medical Library has acquired a quality core print collection of books and journals. The Medical Library collection focuses on medicine and delivery of medical care to rural, geriatric, and other underserved populations. The library's collection includes electronic journals and on-line medical databases which are accessible to nursing students and can be accessed through an off-campus proxy server. For general information contact the library at (850) 644-3883 or see www.med.fsu.edu/library.

Computer Labs

FSU Information Technology Services (ITS) provides a virtual computer lab myFSUVlab that is available to the entire university. This lab is open to all FSU students, faculty, and staff. MyFSUVlab is accessible @ https://its.fsu.edu/service-catalog/end-point-computing/myfsuvlab.To sign in, use your FSUID and password. Go to https://its.fsu.edu/service-catalog/end-point-computing/myfsuvlab to get more information.

COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS

Part 1: Computer System Specifications

Hardware:
Any computer that is older than 2 years will typically not be able to perform the tasks required to complete the program. Your computer needs to have full multimedia capabilities (sound, microphone, and web cam). Headphones or ear buds, web cam, and microphone will be required to access online presentations and to participate in online video conferencing sessions. An important part of your computer is having a plan for backing up your data. There are several inexpensive services (Dropbox, Mosy, Carbonite, etc.) that will ensure your important files are automatically backed up.

Software:
The University provides you with a free version of Microsoft Office 365 online with your name @fsu.edu account. The link below will take you to the FSU Information Technology Services site for Student Essentials: http://its.fsu.edu/student-essentials . This page explains what is available and offers links to import sites. There is also student version of Microsoft Office available for a discounted price and Google Docs is available for free. You will want to make sure you have an anti-virus program (Microsoft Security Essentials is free) and a program to remove malware (Super AntiSpyWare is free). Software is typically updated every month, and you need to make sure you have the latest updates for your computer to function properly.

Internet Connection:
As a student, you are responsible for setting up an account with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), a company that provides the software and service necessary for accessing the Internet. If you are not comfortable with troubleshooting problems on your computer, you will want to sign up with an ISP with a 24-hour help desk.

Internet Browsers:
It is highly recommended that you load at least two browsers on your computer. If you have problems accessing course material the first thing to do is try a different browser. The most popular browsers are Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Microsoft Edge. All browsers are constantly being updated, and it is important to check for updates.

Mobile device (smart phones, tablets, etc.):
You are required to have a device with a mobile app for your use in the clinical setting. You can download various useful mobile apps from the FSU College of Medicine Maguire library site.

Go to https://www.lib.fsu.edu ; go to libraries in the drop-down box, click on Maguire Medical Library in the Resources box, click on Mobile Resources. You will find a number of resources that you can put on your mobile device. You need to follow the directions for each item in order to access it. These apps are free for FSU students. The following is the direct web address for the College of Medicine's library site: https://med.fsu.edu/library.

If you have questions about other apps to purchase contact Dr. Barfield and she can help with your decision.

Part 2: Communications

E-Mail Service:
As an FSU student, you will receive a university e-mail account that is **used for all communications from the University**. It is your responsibility to check your email daily and to ensure that email forwarding, if you have that set up, is working properly.

Videoconferencing:
You will need a webcam, a microphone and a set of earphones or ear buds to participate in videoconferencing required for some online and practicum courses. If your laptop does not have a built-in microphone you will need to purchase an external microphone to participate in the videoconferences. Please note that if you have problems accessing videoconferencing sessions with your computer a suitable alternative may be to use your smartphone or tablet; they come standard with built-in cameras and microphones.

Human Resourcefulness:
The success of technology application depends on your persistence and ingenuity. Your grades will not depend on your successful use of technology, but successfully using technology will enhance your educational experience. Please do your best to make it work. It is highly recommended to have a network for technical support. Share problems, useful experiences and tips with your classmates and instructors on the Discussion of your course sites. The University provides general computer support by phone (850-644-4357) and its website: https://its.fsu.edu/its-service-desk . Canvas support is provided through the Canvas website, the Canvas Support site: http://support.canvas.fsu.edu , by e-mailing canvas@fsu.edu , or calling (850) 644-8

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Ranked in the prestigious Carnegie Foundations Research I Universities category, the Florida State University places paramount importance on the value of quality research. Accordingly, the College of Nursing equally values the primary importance of research in nursing education.

College of Nursing also has a statistical advisor, Dr. Hongyu Miao hmiao@fsu.edu.

GRADUATE STUDENT FACILITIES

Graduate Nursing Students may reserve either a classroom or a conference room in Duxbury Hall as needed for academic purposes. Requests are to be made to Jackie Sessions and should be given at least two weeks in advance. Office 461 and can be reached at (850) 644-5100 or jsessions@fsu.edu.

OTHER UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Florida State University offers a vast range of services, which enhances the academic experience. The new FSU Student Union was completed in Summer 2022. The student union offers postal, food, banking, and traveling services. The University Book Store (850-644-2072), located on the ground floor of the Student Union, offers a wide variety of student supplies, software, sportswear, and texts. Online orders can be placed at http://www.fsu.bkstr.com. Another excellent source from which to obtain course-required texts is Bill's Bookstore. Go to http://www.billsbookstore.com for locations and hours of operations. Ambulatory health services, including counseling and stress management, are available to students at the Health and Wellness Center (850-644-6230). The Leach Student Recreation Center (850-644-0550) offers an array of fitness activities, including work-out equipment, indoor track, racquet ball and squash courts, and Olympic-sized swimming pool. A number of intramural programs are also available each semester. Contact the Campus Recreation Office at 850-644-0551.

The University provides many fine arts programs and cultural activities with music, theater, dance, and visual arts events held throughout the year. "Opening Nights" is a yearly concert series that brings to campus world-renowned actors, authors, musicians, and artists in the fine and performing arts.

The Office of Financial Aid can provide information on financial assistance opportunities from a number of sources (850) 644-0539; https://financialaid.fsu.edu. The Career Center, located in Albert and Judith Dunlap Student Success Center at 100 South Woodward, provides career counseling and advising services (resume writing, job locators). (850) 644-6431. The Office of Parking Services is responsible for the administration of the parking and transportation program on campus (850) 644-5278.

<p style="text-align:center"><u>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS/FELLOWSHIPS</u></p>

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing
For more than 100 years, the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing has promoted excellence across all areas of nursing practice, including clinical practice, research, education, and administration. Sigma leads and supports scientific inquiry to advance nursing's response to patient needs globally. Members gain access to a wide array of resources within an international community of nurses, positioning the profession at the forefront of healthcare through scholarship, research, and leadership support.
FSU's chapter, Beta Pi, confers membership upon students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance and practicing nurses who have shown outstanding achievements in their field. To be eligible for membership as a graduate student, one must have completed one-quarter of the graduate program, achieved a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and met the expectations of academic integrity.

Alumni Association
Organized in 1977, the College of Nursing Alumni Association serves to:
1. Provide an opportunity for alumni to maintain lifelong connections with the College.
2. Create a framework for alumni to engage in educational, professional, and other alumni-focused events.
3. Offer advisory support to the College of Nursing and its alumni.
4. Stimulate ongoing interest and financial support for the College of Nursing at Florida State University.

The College of Nursing Alumni Association leadership encourages alumni participation in student recruitment, scholarship fund development, building improvements, and promoting FSU locally. Each year, alumni gather during Homecoming for class reunions and celebrations. For more information, please contact the College of Nursing Dean's Office at (850) 644-3299.

Membership on College of Nursing Committees
The Bylaws of the College of Nursing explicitly include student membership on committees. Graduate students may be asked or may volunteer to serve on the Admission, Curriculum, Student Affairs, and Program Evaluation committees. Contact the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, Dr. Kathleen Wilson, for more information.

Florida Nurses Association (FNA)
Faculty strongly encourage students to join the Florida Nurses Association (FNA), the state's primary nursing organization that advocates for the profession and facilitates change. The FNA's address is 1235 East Concord St., Orlando, FL 32853-6985, and their website is www.floridanurse.org.

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
For nurse practitioners (NPs), NP students, and organizations interested in the NP role, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) offers tools and resources for advancing quality healthcare through practice, education, advocacy, research, and leadership. Visit the AANP at www.aanp.org.

Graduate Nursing Student Organization (GNSA)
The Graduate Nursing Student Association (GNSA) was established in 1992 to provide a support network for graduate students and promote their interests within the College of Nursing. Membership is open to any graduate nursing student. The GNSA offers students representation on the Dean's Advisory Committee and liaison opportunities with the Council for Advanced Practice Nursing. Officers are elected each Fall semester.

Council of Advanced Practice Nursing (CAPN) - Tallahassee (LOCAL)
The Council of Advanced Practice Nurses in Tallahassee meets monthly for continuing education and networking. The GNSA sends a student representative to these meetings. Students may join at a reduced rate or attend individual meetings, which include dinner and provide Contact Hours for a small fee. Visit CAPN at https://capntally.enpnetwork.com.

Florida Nurse Practitioner Network (FNPN) – Florida (STATE)
Founded in 2002, the FNPN is a network of Nurse Practitioners across specialties and settings in Florida, dedicated to uniting NP groups to effect meaningful professional change. The FNPN's mission is to support NPs in providing top-tier healthcare to Floridians. For more information, visit https://fnpn.enpnetwork.com.

Sarasota County Nurse Practitioners (SCNP) – Sarasota (LOCAL)
The SCNP promotes excellence in practice, education, policy, and research, serving as a resource for NPs and healthcare consumers in Sarasota County. SCNP provides educational and professional development opportunities for nurse practitioners and fosters member networking. Visit https://sarasotacountynp.enpnetwork.com for more information.

Central Florida Advanced Nursing Practice Council (CFANPC) (LOCAL)
The Central Florida Advanced Nursing Practice Council (CFANPC) is a professional organization for Advanced Practice Nurses, promoting patient care advancements, professional growth, and community support. Visit CFANPC at https://cfanpc.enpnetwork.com.

GRADUATE TEACHING/RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching Assistants (TA) and Research/Graduate Assistants (GA)
The College of Nursing offers Teaching Assistant (TA) and Graduate Assistant (GA) positions based on the availability of funds and open positions. Qualified students interested in becoming a TA or GA should contact the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs to discuss requirements. Interested candidates must submit a written statement of interest and a current CV or resume to the Assistant Dean. Additional policies for GA positions are available in the current FSU Graduate Bulletin.

- **General TA/GA Requirements**
  - Must hold a BS degree in Nursing.
  - Hold an active Florida RN license.
  - Have recent clinical nursing experience.
  - Be fully admitted to the DNP Program in the College of Nursing.
  - Maintain good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

- o Credit Enrollment: Students must be registered for a minimum of 9 credit hours to receive a traditional TA or GA position with a stipend. In cases where a student's specific skill set is needed to support the College of Nursing, a scholarship may be offered in place of a full assistantship, excluding a stipend.
- o Attend orientations for the College of Nursing, clinical agencies, and their assigned courses, as well as any relevant term meetings.
- o Confer weekly with their assigned faculty mentor.
- o Adhere to FSU, College of Nursing, and course-specific policies and procedures.
- o Additional Requirements for Teaching Assistants: Register for a minimum of 1 credit hour in NGR 5941L (Supervised Teaching) during their first semester of employment and participate in weekly seminars. Attendance at both days of the FSU Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) orientation is mandatory.

Graduate Student Mentor Positions
Graduate Student Mentor positions are available to second-year and beyond students who provide guidance to first-year DNP and certificate students through the fall and spring semesters. These mentors help first-year students navigate the program, offering support and insight gained from their own experiences.

This structure ensures that students in TA, GA, and mentor roles contribute meaningfully to the College of Nursing, leveraging their expertise while gaining professional and instructional experience.

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HRSA Nurse Faculty Loan Program

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When funded, the College of Nursing will offer HRSA Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) funds to degree-seeking students who aspire to become nursing faculty after graduation. This program supports students' education by providing loans with up to 80% repayment forgiveness for those who commit to teaching in academic nursing programs upon completing their degree. Information about the availability of NFLP funds will be shared each year in the fall. This is an exceptional opportunity for students dedicated to shaping the future of nursing education.

PRECEPTOR INFORMATION

PRECEPTOR INFORMATION

The purpose of the clinical preceptor program is to provide the students with a professional role model whose guidance will enhance the attainment of student learning. The preceptor will act as a facilitator and resource person to the student during the clinical learning experiences and will participate in the evaluation of the student's learning. The preceptor will act as a facilitator and resource person to the student during the clinical learning experiences and will participate in the evaluation of the student's learning. A preceptor handbook and training module have been developed and will be supplied to the preceptor by the student or Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs.

Functions and Responsibilities of the College of Nursing:
1. CON verifies that an FDLE/FBI Level II Background Screening has been completed for the student.
2. CON verifies that the student meets the clinical clearance requirements and able to start participating in the clinical experience.
3. Additionally, CON verifies that the student has completed the required drug screening, has personal health insurance, has professional liability insurance coverage, and proof of current, unencumbered Registered Nurse license in the United States.

Functions and Responsibilities of the Preceptor:
1. Participate in a preceptor orientation.
2. Function as a role model at the clinical site.
3. Orient the student to the agency/clinical site.
4. Assure safe nursing practice by supervising the student's performance of clinical skills.
5. Assist the student in identification and monitoring of available activities, which accomplish the clinical objectives.
6. Communicate verbally and in writing with the student and collaborate with the faculty regarding student performance.
7. Provide feedback on the nursing program regarding clinical activities for students and suggestions for curriculum/program development as needed.
8. Keep the faculty informed of student performance when needed or if any problems occur.
9. Participate in evaluation of the preceptor program as needed.

Functions and Responsibility of the Student:
1. Participate in the selection of a clinical practicum and preceptor, when appropriate.
2. Supply preceptor will receive a copy of the course syllabus.
3. Maintain accountability for her/his learning activities.
4. Prepare for each clinical experience as needed and expected.
5. Be accountable for nursing practice activities while in the clinical setting. Arrange with your preceptor for your clinical schedule for the semester.
6. Share learning experiences in grand rounds, clinical seminars, and student/preceptor/faculty conferences.
7. Keep open communication with preceptor and faculty.

8. Keep all patient and agency information obtained during clinical experiences confidential.
9. Complete all required course assignments.
10. Complete evaluation of preceptor(s).
11. Complete written self-evaluation as outlined in the clinical course.
12. Participate in the evaluation by the preceptor and or faculty of your clinical experience.

Preceptor Tuition Waivers and Verification Letters

Preceptor Tuition Waivers and Verification Process
Since Summer 2021, FSU preceptors are eligible to receive a tuition waiver upon completion of 300 clinical precepting hours. If you are interested in obtaining a tuition waiver or a preceptor verification letter, please follow this link to the survey:
Link: [FSU Nursing | Tuition Waiver / Preceptor Verification](#)

Process for Tuition Waiver and Preceptor Verification
1. **Survey Completion**
   - The Qualtrics survey provides two options: one to request a tuition waiver and one for preceptor verification. Preceptors may select one or both options as needed.
   - Once submitted, Clinical Coordinator Katie Lambert will review the surveys, categorizing requests by waiver or verification.
   - For verification letters, Katie will forward the necessary information to Dr. Kathleen Wilsonb, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, who will issue the letter. For tuition waiver requests, Katie will document the information on an Excel spreadsheet in the TEAMs platform for tracking.
2. **Required Survey Information**
   - **Preceptor Information**: Full name, credentials, email, and clinic address.
   - **Student Precepted**: Full name, course, semester/year, and hours precepted.
   - **Anticipated Use of Tuition Waiver**: Indicate when you expect to utilize the waiver.

Eligibility: Only Florida residents qualify for tuition waivers, as outlined in [Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes Policy](#).

Certificate of Participation
After accumulating 300 precepting hours, preceptors can request a Certificate of Participation. This certificate entitles the holder to a tuition waiver for up to six credit hours in one term at any State University in Florida, including courses offered through continuing education. The holder is responsible for all applicable fees except the matriculation fee and must meet all Florida State University and State of Florida admission and registration policies.
This benefit recognizes the valuable contributions of our preceptors in preparing the next generation of nursing professionals. Thank you for your dedication and support!

Verification Letter for Preceptors
Board-certified preceptors can receive a verification letter from the College of Nursing to document their precepted hours for board certification renewal. If you would like a letter verifying your hours, please contact Clinical Coordinator Katie Lambert, who will coordinate with the College to provide the necessary documentation. Thank you for your valuable contribution to our students' clinical education!