



TEXAS WOMAN'S
UNIVERSITY™

College of Nursing
Handbook

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Disclaimer

This Handbook is neither a contract nor an offer to make a contract. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information enclosed, the Handbook is updated during the Spring Semester of each year. Texas Woman's University College of Nursing reserves the right to make changes at any time with respect to course offerings, degree requirements, services, policies, or any other subject addressed in this document. The information enclosed is provided solely for the convenience of the students and other readers.

This Handbook supersedes all previous versions of the Handbook. Students are accountable for familiarizing themselves with its contents and for compliance with the policies and procedures contained within. The information provided in this handbook is to assist students in (1) academic program planning and (2) meeting the requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School for completing the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. This information is intended to clarify and to supplement - not to replace, the information in the Graduate Catalog. Each student should read thoroughly and comply fully with all requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

This book contains information for the DNP program. All [blue underlined](#) text contains a hyperlink to other resources on both TWU websites and public websites. Place your mouse over the text, hold the CTRL button and left click the mouse to navigate to the website. At the time of publication, all hyperlinks work properly.

College of Nursing Student Handbook Verification

Please note: Students are required to complete the handbook acknowledgement form and submit to the DNP Program Director within a month of starting the program. Acknowledgement form can be found on the TWU DNP Program collaborative space (under resources).

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-------------|--|----|
| I. | Letter from the Dean | 4 |
| II. | Mission and Vision | 5 |
| | A. University | 5 |
| | B. College of Nursing | 6 |
| | C. Foundational Documents | 7 |
| III. | Student Services and Resources | 8 |
| | A. Division of Student Life | 8 |
| | B. Communication | 8 |
| | 1. Pioneer Alert | 8 |
| | 2. Email | 9 |
| | C. Campus Closing – Severe Weather | 9 |
| | D. Nursing Student Organizations | 10 |
| | E. University-Wide Student Organizations | 10 |
| | F. Online Courses | 11 |
| IV. | Policies and Procedures | 12 |
| | A. Registration | 12 |
| | B. Academic Advisors | 12 |
| | C. Academic Conduct and Professional Integrity | 12 |
| | D. Attendance | 13 |
| | E. Disability Support Services | 14 |
| | F. Academic Appeal | 14 |
| | G. Citation Style | 17 |
| | H. Social Media | 17 |
| V. | Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) | 17 |
| | A. Overview | 17 |
| | B. Program Purpose | 17 |
| | C. Program Objectives/Competencies | 18 |
| | D. General Requirements | 19 |
| | E. Advisement | 19 |
| | F. Course Work and Transfer of Credits | 20 |
| | G. The DNP Degree | 20 |
| | H. Financial Assistance: Full and Part-time Students | 20 |
| | I. Course Work | 21 |
| | J. DNP Project Course | 23 |
| | K. Additional Information | 25 |
| | Appendix A. DNP Crosswalk Table | 26 |
| | Appendix B. History of the College of Nursing | 28 |
| | Appendix C. DNP Project Guideline (link) | 32 |

Texas Woman's University College of Nursing

I. Letter from the Dean



Welcome to TWU and to our DNP program. Our practice doctorate is reflective of an ongoing National dialogue on the essential criteria for DNP practice and we continually evaluate our curriculum for current and relevant content and practices to assure your training prepares you for the ever-changing health care system.

Our DNP Faculty bring a wealth of experience to our program. Our faculty work diligently to assist students in developing their DNP Project questions and seeing a scholarly project through to completion. We have many opportunities include over 1300 clinical affiliation agreements with clinical agencies, and partnerships ensuring the work of the DNP is understood, realized, and intentional.

Please take the time to closely review the policies and procedures within this Handbook which will answer many of your questions and supply you with information you need to be successful in the program.

I do hope you enjoy the journey into clinical scholarship and creating a healthcare system where positive outcomes can be realized.

Best of luck to you while on this journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Damon B. Cottrell'.

Damon B. Cottrell, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CCNS, ACNS-BC

Interim Dean & Professor

Link to TWU CON Faculty Profiles: <https://twu.edu/faculty-profiles/>

II. Mission and Vision

A. University

1. Mission

Texas Woman's University cultivates engaged leaders and global citizens by leveraging its historical strengths in health, liberal arts, and education and its standing as the nation's largest public university primarily for women.

Committed to transformational learning, discovery, and service in an inclusive environment that embraces diversity, Texas Woman's inspires excellence and a pioneering spirit.

B. College of Nursing

1. Mission

The College of Nursing seeks to support and empower students of all ages and ethnic groups to address the health care needs and issues of the people in Texas, the nation and the world through acquiring nursing knowledge and leadership skills for entry level, advance practice, and scientific roles by integrating health promotion and disease prevention within diverse groups in a time of rapid technological and societal change.

Mission – DNP Program

TWU DNP graduates of all ages and ethnic groups will gain the knowledge, skills, and competencies to develop and lead innovative quality improvement initiatives that transform healthcare to meet the needs of diverse patient populations.

2. Vision

Pioneering Nursing's Future: An Adventure in Excellence

Vision – DNP Program

TWU DNP graduates will lead and transform healthcare as implementation scholars.

3. Philosophy

The College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University offers a diverse multi-campus setting and awards degrees at the Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral levels. This philosophy is congruent with the mission of the university and its commitment to prepare students for leadership and service built on a solid liberal education base and quality professional programs. It is consistent with the fundamental beliefs about nursing and nursing's contract with society as described by the American Nurses Association in *Nursing's Social Policy Statement* (2010). The preparation of nurses for service and leadership is guided by the current *AACN Essentials of Nursing (2006, 2021)* and the Texas Board of Nursing *Differentiated Essential Competencies for the Baccalaureate degree*.

The faculty of the college of nursing builds this philosophy on our beliefs about the key concepts included in nursing's predominant theoretical metaparadigm and on our beliefs about education and learning. Individuals are holistic human beings in constant interaction with their environment; each has inherent worth and dignity and is unique in capabilities, beliefs, and interests. Individuals are an integral part of culturally diverse families, groups, communities, and populations. Society influences an individual's perception of health care needs and is charged with the responsibility for aiding the individual, particularly those in vulnerable populations, in the fulfillment of these needs. Society entrusts nurses as competent providers of optimal health care and education. Health is a state of physiological, psychological, socio-cultural, developmental, and spiritual functioning that allows individual members to achieve maximum potential. The health of an individual has a direct effect upon the family, group, community, **and** population. Health promotion and disease prevention are employed at all societal levels to improve population health.

Nursing is a synthesis of art and science. Practitioners of nursing balance the use of science and technology with the art of caring to achieve optimal outcomes. The science of nursing is based on nursing theories, natural and behavioral sciences, and patient care technologies. This knowledge, together with current evidence, clinical/critical reasoning, and multiple ways of knowing, is used to develop, evaluate, and achieve safe patient care and optimum health outcomes across all environments. The art of nursing, grounded in the human sciences, is exemplified by characteristics of caring such as presence, authenticity, advocacy, empowerment, and connections with people across all cultures in their experiences of health. Nurses interact with individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in collaboration with other healthcare professionals for the purposes of promoting, maintaining, protecting, and restoring health in all stages of the life cycle or supporting a peaceful death. Nurses guide, mentor, support, and lead other nurses to achieve excellence in nursing practice. Nurses are prepared to function in leadership roles and to address the political, social, ethical, economic, and policy issues that affect health care at local, state, national, and international levels. Fundamental to nursing are the values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice.

We, as a community of nurse educators, believe that education, research, and service are the foundation for the practice of professional nursing. Faculty is responsible for contributing to the vitality of the college and the university community and for developing, maintaining, and evaluating educational programs. Faculty is responsible for and committed to providing learning experiences that enable students to cultivate critical thinking, clinical judgment, leadership skills, and the professional nursing values needed to function competently and to cultivate caring practices in an increasingly complex health care system. Faculty is committed to developing supportive learning environments that encourage students to successfully achieve the objectives of the offered program. Faculty is responsible for contributing to an environment

conducive to academic freedom, service, and scholarship. Students, as adult learners with multiple roles, are responsible for contributing to the learning environment by being actively involved in the learning process; to seek, to question, and to propose and implement new ideas using peer, faculty, and university resources to further their own learning and to serve the greater community.

C. Selected Documents and Resources for Doctoral Education

The following are foundational documents for doctoral education in nursing. The student is responsible for reading, understanding, and acting in accordance with the principles outlined in these documents. The web links are provided for each of the documents.

Vital resources:

AACN DNP Education

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Nursing-Education-Programs/DNP-Education>

AACN 2021 Essentials

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/pdf/Essentials-2021.pdf>

ANA Standards for Clinical Practice

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/scope-of-practice/>

Other resources:

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Competencies

https://cdn.ymaws.com/nonpf.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/competencies/20170516_NONPFCoreCompsContentF.pdf

American Organization of Nursing Leadership (AONL) Competencies

<https://www.aonl.org/resources/nurse-leader-competencies>

AACN Nursing Research Position Statement

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Position-Statements-White-Papers/Nursing-Research>

ANA Code of Ethics

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/>

Texas Board of Nursing

http://www.bon.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_rules_and_regulations.asp#

D. Research Tools DNP Library Guide <https://libguides.twu.edu/c.php?g=270149&p=8087177>

Center for Research Design & Analysis (CRDA)

<https://twu.edu/center-for-research-design-and-analysis-crda/>

III. Student Services and Resources

A. Division of Student Life <https://twu.edu/student-life/>

Mission

The Division of Student Life actively supports the mission of Texas Woman's University and its learning environment. It is the mission of the Division of Student Life at Texas Woman's University to support and enhance the student's academic experience by providing services and programs that holistically develop the student. These programs and services are provided on all campuses and at a distance via a variety of media. The Division of Student Life seeks to provide the environment and support to assist TWU's students to reach their potential in leadership and community service. Under this division, you will also find multiple resources in the TWU Student Handbook located at

<https://servicecenter.twu.edu/TDClient/1956/Portal/KB/?CategoryID=4491> Office

Locations

[Denton Campus](#)

Brackenridge Hall; Room 206

Phone: 940-898-3615

Fax: 940-898-3629

[T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Science, Dallas Campus](#)

5500 Southwestern Medical Blvd

Suite 3600

Phone: 214-689-6697

Fax: 214-689-6688

[Institute of Health Sciences - Houston Campus](#)

6700 Fannin St.

Suite 2300

Phone: 713-794-2157

Fax: 713-794-2169

B. Communication:

1) Pioneer Alert

Texas Woman's University Department of Public Safety uses a variety of methods to alert students, faculty, and staff in case of an emergency on campus. In case of an emergency the **Pioneer Alert** system can deliver

emergency messages from the police to an affected campus by the following methods:

- a. Campus computer
- b. Text message
- c. Personal email
- d. Personal telephone

To receive notification by text message, personal telephone, or personal email you must [register your information into a secure database by going here](#). The information entered is secure and will never be used for any reason other than emergency alert notification.

- 2) **Email** Your email account is created automatically when you create your Pioneer Portal account. Email is available on and off campus via your Pioneer Portal account.

All TWU communication is sent through your Portal email. If you do not check your Portal email, you MUST forward it to another account. You may do so by logging into Pioneer Portal, clicking "My Settings," then "Forward/Unforward" my email.

To access your email from the web (on and off campus):

- Log in to Pioneer Portal, then click on My Email. You may also click on [Google Mail](#) from the TWU Internet Home Page (bottom left)
- A new page will load.
 - In the "username@twu.edu" box, type in your username followed by "@twu.edu". An example of the username is: jpioneer@twu.edu .
 - In the "Password:" box, type in your TWU Portal password.
- Click "Sign In."

The expectations are that students can be contacted through TWU email or the phone number on file in the College of Nursing and that they will respond to email or a phone call within a 24-hour time period, excluding weekends and holidays. *It is imperative that students keep their information current, particularly their phone numbers.*

C. Campus Closing – Severe Weather

A severe weather *watch* is defined as an atmospheric condition that is likely to produce severe weather. A severe weather *warning* is defined as severe weather occurring in the area that necessitates precautions being taken. Examples of severe weather include tornadoes, cyclones, and high winds.

For information on bad weather closings at TWU, please call the appropriate information number below:

Denton. ... 940-898-3430

Dallas.....214-689-6631

Houston. 713-794-2310

You may also find information about severe weather on your local radio and TV stations. You will also be notified by a [Pioneer Alert](#) message.

| Radio Stations | | Television | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| Dallas: | KRLD 1080 AM | Dallas: | Channels 4, 5, 8, & 11 |
| | KLIF 1190 AM | Denton: | Cable: Channel 25 |
| | KPRC 950 AM | | KPRC TV - Channel 2 |
| | KTRH 740 AM | | KTRK TV - Channel 13 |
| | KIKK 96 FM | | |
| | KODA 99.1 FM | | |

Please note: IF THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED, YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CLINICAL SETTING. If you are in a clinical setting when the Campus closes, you will be required to leave the site immediately or when it is safe to do so.

D. TWU COVID-19 Pandemic Resources

<https://twu.edu/coronavirus/>

E. Nursing Student Organizations

a. [Texas Student Nurses Association](#)

Texas Nursing Students' Association, Inc. (TNSA) is a student nursing association dedicated to promoting professionalism and leadership for today's students

b. [National Student Nurses Association](#)

The National Student Nurses' Association mentors the professional development of future registered nurses and facilitates their entrance into the profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance.

c. [Sigma International Honor Society of Nursing](#)

Sigma Theta Tau is the international honor society for nursing. Membership is by invitation only either as a nursing student who demonstrates excellence in scholarship or as a community leader.

Mission

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Vision

The vision of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma International, is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

Membership

Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurses who exhibit exceptional achievements in nursing.

TWU Beta Beta Chapters

Dallas Campus: <https://betabeta-dallas.sigmanursing.org/home>

Houston Campus:

<https://betabeta-houston.sigmanursing.org/home>

F. University-wide Student Organizations

- 1) A full list of all student organizations and contact information is located at [Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach - Texas Woman's University](#)
- 2) Student Government
 - a. [Denton](#)
 - b. [Dallas](#)
 - c. [Houston](#)

G. Online Courses

By state definition and by TWU's definition, online courses have 51%-100% of their content delivered online. All TWU online courses utilize the Canvas Learning Platform. You must establish a TWU Pioneer Portal account to take a course on Canvas. To learn about Canvas, read the following online pages:

Pioneer Portal: <https://portal.twu.edu/>

Canvas Student Guide: <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212>

Teaching and Learning with Technology: <https://twu.edu/tlt>

IV. Policies and Procedures

A. Registration

- 1) You will register for your classes through the Pioneer Portal. You may download the instructions at

<https://twu.edu/registrar/registration/>

- 2) Special Instructions for courses with restricted entry

If a course is restricted, only the department may provide the 5-digit course code for a student to be able to register. In this case, the student must use "**Express Registration**" to complete registration for this course. You will get the course code from your academic advisor.

B. Academic Advisors

- 1) Each student will be assigned a faculty academic advisor. Academic advisement sessions are primarily provided during individual appointments at the Denton Campus, Houston, and Dallas Centers. The Program Director is available to students who encounter problems or need further assistance.

C. Academic Conduct and Professional Integrity

1) Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic community. Because each student has the primary responsibility for being academically honest, students are responsible for reading and understanding all sections in the [University Student Handbook](#) that relate to standards of conduct and academic life. Students who violate University or College of Nursing rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure or removal from a course, disciplinary probation, and/or dismissal from the College of Nursing and the University.

2) Definitions:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, falsification, falsifying academic records, or other acts intentionally designed to provide an unfair advantage to the student and/or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, intentionally giving, or receiving unauthorized aid or notes on examinations, papers, or class assignments intended to be individually completed. Cheating also includes the unauthorized copying of tests or any other deceit or fraud related to the student's academic conduct or violating the guidelines set out by a faculty member for assignments and/or exams.
 - ii. **Collusion** occurs when a student collaborates with another person without authorization when preparing an assignment.
 - iii. **Fabrication** occurs when a student makes up data or results

- iv. **Falsification** occurs when a student manipulates research materials, equipment, or processes or changes or omits results such that the clinical experience or research is not accurately reflected in the records.
- 3) **Plagiarism** occurs when a student obtains portions or elements of someone else's work, including materials prepared by another person or agency, and presents those ideas or words as her or his own academic work. The intentional or unintentional use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment shall constitute plagiarism. Another form of plagiarism is called self-plagiarism and occurs when you reuse your own work such as from a prior class or assignment without giving credit to that prior work. This is still considered a form of academic dishonesty and is considered a serious offense.

D. Attendance

- 1) The University expects students to attend all classes regularly and punctually. It is a policy of the University not to allow a fixed number of "cuts" in any class. The only excused absences are for:
- a. Illness certified by a licensed health care provider
 - b. Serious illness or death in student's immediate family
 - c. Being away from the campus with the sanction of the University or for a religious holiday.

Consistent class attendance is vital to academic success and is expected of all students. Grades are determined by academic performance, and instructors may give students written notice that attendance related to specific classroom activities is required.

Absences do not exempt you from academic requirements. Excessive absences, even if documented, may result in your failing the course. An "Incomplete" may be granted if you have a passing grade, but only if you meet the criteria for an "Incomplete," and the instructor determines it is feasible for you to successfully complete remaining assignments after the semester. Such determinations are within the discretion of the instructor.

Instructors may keep a record of class attendance and include it in the semester report to the Registrar. The total number of absences is to be entered on the grade report at the end of the semester.

Please review the leave of CON Leave of Absence Policy.

<https://twu.edu/student-life-houston/absences-drops-and-withdrawals/>

2) Religious Holidays

The state law allows students in Texas Colleges and Universities to make up missed work if they are absent because of a religious holy day. The law requires

assignment scheduled for that day at another time. The student must notify the instructor prior to the day of the planned absence. The law defines a "religious holy day" as a day observed by a religion whose place of worship is exempt from property taxation under state law. If a student plans to be absent for an observance, written notice must be given to each instructor by the 15th day of the semester.

The law, which became effective August 1985, further states that a student who is excused under these conditions, may not be penalized for the absence; but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination.

E. Disability Support Services

It is the policy of Texas Woman's University to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local law, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact Disability Support Services and the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

The Disability Support Services Office is designated to respond to the special needs of students with disabilities. The professional staff in this office acts as the centralized clearing house for provision of those accommodations/services that will most appropriately meet each student's needs. The office provides or locates appropriate services that allow students to have equal access to academic programs and services. Disability Support Services endeavors to provide the assistance and encouragement that the student needs in meeting the challenges of university life.

To obtain services a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Receive notice of acceptance to TWU.
2. Complete an application form available through the Disability Support Services Office.
3. Provide documentation indicating the presence of a disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
4. Apply well in advance of the semester for which assistance is needed to obtain services in a timely manner.

Additional information, including a Campus Access Guide, may be obtained by contacting [Disability Support Services](#), CFO 106, P. O. Box 425966, Denton, TX 76204-5379, 940/898-3835, (Voice) or TDD access at 940/898-3830. dss@twu.edu

F. Academic Appeal

Texas Woman's University is committed to the fair treatment of all students who have complaints and appeals. The university has traditionally guaranteed students every

15

opportunity for a fair, prompt, and thorough review of complaints and appeals. Students are encouraged to begin resolving a complaint or appeal at the level at which the complaint or appeal originated. Students should follow university procedures and deadlines to advance a complaint or appeal. TWU's [Academic/Administrative Complaints and Appeals policy](#) guides students in the complaint and appeal process.

Complaints or appeals at each level must be made in writing no later than 10 class days after the date of the decision at the previous level unless otherwise stipulated in state or federal law. The 10 days for appeal at each level do not include weekends, holidays, or days between academic sessions. The faculty member or administrator receiving the complaint or appeal will respond within 10 class days, not including weekends, holidays, or days between academic sessions. Review and decision may require a longer period of time.

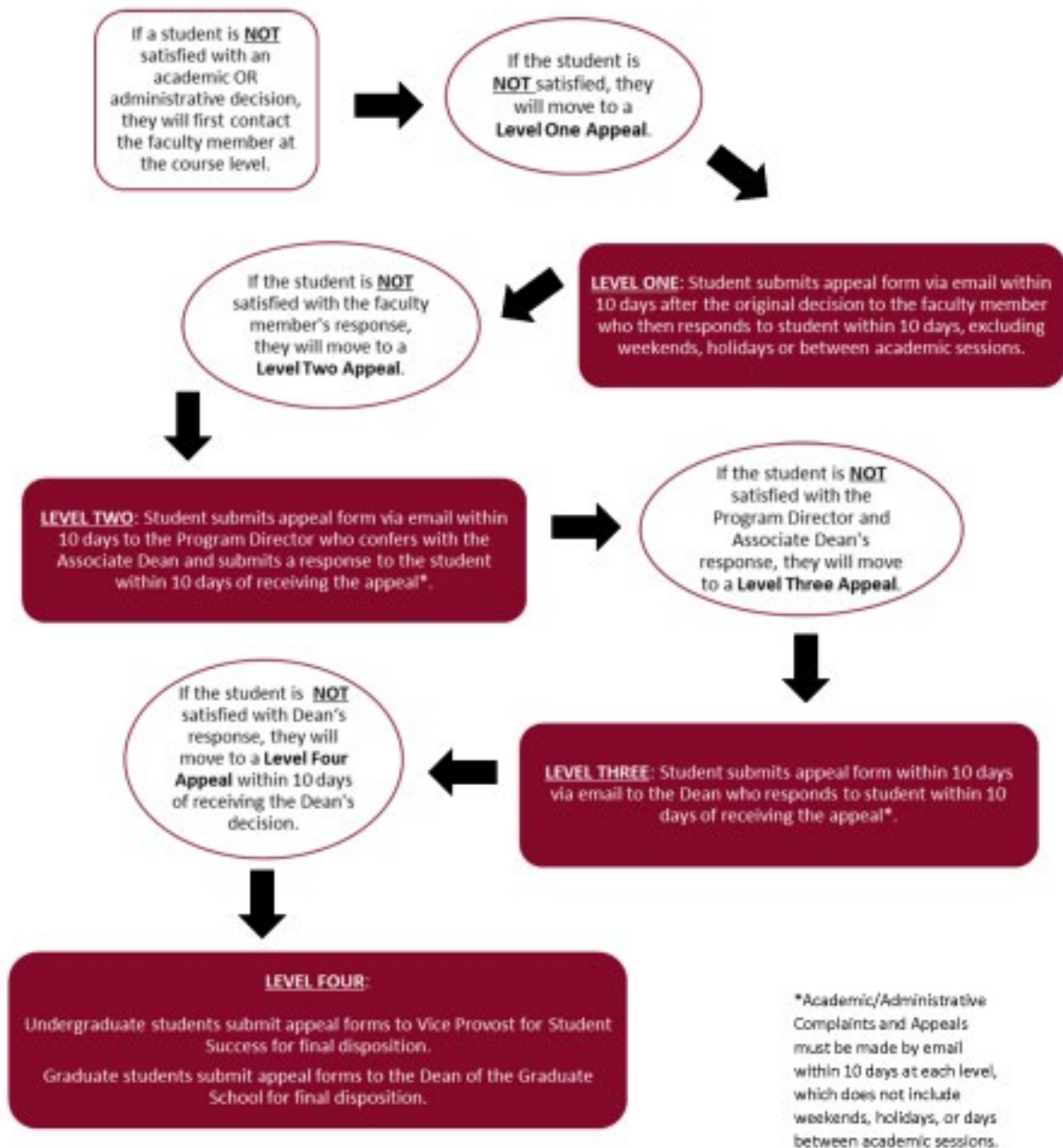
The [TWU Academic/Administrative Complaint and Appeal Form \[Word\]](#) is to be used for complaints and appeals. To select the appropriate office to begin the process, consult Procedures for Academic/Administrative Complaints and Appeals of TWU Decisions document. The procedures provide directions for the sequence of offices each type of complaint or appeal should follow to a final decision. The form may be completed electronically and submitted by email to the appropriate office within 10 days of the occurrence of the complaint. Addendums are permissible to concisely document the complaint and may be attached to the email or delivered to the corresponding office. Please print a copy of the completed document at each level for your records.

See Academic/Administrative Complaint and Appeals Process on the next Page.

16

Graduate Grade Appeals, Advising Issues, & Other Academic Program Issues

Academic/Administrative Complaints and Appeals



(06/2022)

G. Citation Style

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), current 7th

edition, is used by the CON for citations, references, and papers. Students are expected to comply with this formatting style.

H. Social Media

Social network sites such as Facebook, Snap Chat, LinkedIn, Twitter, are digital platforms and distribution mechanisms that facilitate student communication with other students. Participation in such platforms may have both positive and negative consequences. Students are not restricted from using such platforms, but it is expected that you will follow acceptable social and professional behaviors and comply with all federal government regulations including, but not limited to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines.

- The following are examples of materials absolutely prohibited to post online (e.g., pictures of patients, patient identifiers, suggestive pictures/content).
- If you identify yourself as a TWU CON Student, everything you post reflects on you and the University. Post wisely.
- You may create a private class page/site, but you may not create a public TWU CON page.
- **Do not share information about tests, clinical sites, patients, or faculty online.**
- Remember, your future employer will search your social media Pages prior to employment. Only post things that can pass the “Front Page of the Newspaper Test” (Would you be comfortable if your material were on the front page of the newspaper?)
- [Texas Board of Nursing position statement on Social Media](#)
- [ANA on Social Media](#)
- [TWU Social Media Policy](#)

V. Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

A. Overview

Texas Woman’s University’s DNP program is specifically geared toward supporting the academic goals of nurses pursuing either a post-master’s DNP or BSN DNP Track at the graduate level. The DNP student is ready to function as an expert clinician and/or leader while integrating and evaluating evidence-practices in acute and primary care settings.

With a curriculum based on enhanced clinical practice, advanced organizational leadership skills, health care informatics, and the application of scientific advances in nursing; the DNP program will prepare graduates to meet the demands of our nation’s complex health care system and aging population.

B. Program Purpose

DNP graduates from TWU are prepared as implementation scholars based on a

curriculum that focuses on:

- Evidence-based practice
- Quality improvement
- Organization and systems leadership
- Health policy and finance
- Information technology
- Population health
- Advanced Practice

DNP-prepared nurses transform healthcare by implementing the science developed by nurse researchers.

C. Program Objectives/Competencies

At the completion of the DNP Program, graduates will be able to:

- Constructively Integrate systems thinking, translational theories and care models to support and improve patient care and healthcare systems.

(Domain(s): Knowledge for Nursing Practice; Person-Centered Care.

Systems-Based Practice; Informatics and Healthcare Technologies)

- Critically evaluate the impact of unique approaches to complex problems in the health care system.

(Domain(s): Systems-Based Practice; Interprofessional Partnerships; Quality and Safety; Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development)

- Selectively integrate ethical principles and professional values to advanced nursing practice to improve population health and healthcare systems.

(Domain(s): Knowledge for Nursing Practice; Professionalism; Population Health; Person- Centered Care; Systems-Based Care)

- Effectively integrate leadership, professional development, and competencies for lifelong learning as advanced nurses in delivering safe, quality care.

(Domain(s): Quality and Safety; Professionalism; Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development)

- Critically appraise healthcare policies and practices that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion within a healthcare system.

(Domain(s): Knowledge for Nursing Practice; Person-Centered Care. Systems-Based Care; Quality and Safety)

- Comprehensively validate the incorporation of clinical prevention, population health initiatives, and evidence-based health policy through interprofessional and stakeholder collaboration.

(Domain(s): Population Health; Interprofessional Partnerships; Quality and Safety; Person- Centered Care)

- Design, implement, and disseminate DNP project outcomes to promote evidence-based practice.

D. General Requirements

Admission Requirements

- Successful completion of a master's degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
- Current U.S. RN license (unencumbered).
- Must have an unencumbered APRN license, APRN certification (nationally accredited), or eligibility to be recognized as an APRN in any state.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on all prior graduate-level coursework for unconditional admission. Applicants with a GPA of less than 3.0 in the last 60 hours of coursework may be considered for provisional admission on an individual basis.
- Since graduation from the DNP requires 1000 clinical hours post BSN, an assessment will be made of the number of hours brought forward from the master's degree.
- An interview may be required (virtual).

How to Apply

1. Apply for admission to the [TWU Graduate School](#).
2. Collect and submit the following documents as separate PDF files in **ONE** email to the DNP Program Director with the subject line (YOUR FULL NAME)-Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Please attach all items as PDFs.
 - A letter addressing professional goals
 - Curriculum vita or resume
 - Letter or document that depicts the total number of MSN practicum hours completed by the applicant
3. Two academic or professional references should submit letters of recommendation as PDFs on institutional or organization letterhead to the DNP Program Director. Recommenders should include the student's name and "Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)" in the subject line.

E. Advisement

Prior to admission to the doctoral program, the DNP Program Director, or Associate Director at each respective campus acts as an advisor for the student. The Academic Advisor is the faculty member whom the student should contact for information related to procedures and requirements for degree planning, changes in the program of study and/or changes in committee membership, advisement about courses to be taken, and transfer of credit from other institutions. The student and advisor prepare the DNP Degree Plan. Prior to enrolling in any course work each semester, students must discuss plans with their advisor. The Academic Advisor's primary responsibility is to assist the advisor when concerns regarding student progression/retention/remediation arise.

The DNP degree plan is automatically populated in WebAdvisor found under the pioneer portal at <https://portal.twu.edu/>

F. Coursework and Transfer of Credits

The post-Master's DNP program is an entirely online curriculum with an in-person colloquium and requires as few as 40 credit hours to complete. In addition, 540 practicum hours are required in the candidate's selected area of clinical expertise as well as completion of a DNP scholarly project. The DNP scholarly project is an evidence-based solution to a clinical problem.

The curriculum is available in the TWU Graduate Catalog at

<https://twu.edu/nursing/doctor-of-nursing-practice-dnp/>

A student may apply for consideration for transfer credit only after satisfactorily completing a minimum of 9 hours of graduate credit **in the doctoral program** at TWU and upon filing the degree plan. The TWU Graduate School specifies that the DNP student must complete the degree within 6 years of the date that the first course in the DNP program is applied to the degree plan. If that course is a transfer course, that date begins the 6-year time period.

G. The DNP Degree Plan

The post-Master's DNP Degree Plan is automatically populated by the registrar's office into WebAdvisor found within the pioneer portal under *Academic Planning*. Students in conjunction with their Advisor will complete academic planning each semester. The Degree Plan lists exact course numbers and titles. Any transfer credit approved by the Program Director and Associate Dean must have an official transcript filed with the Graduate Office. The Program Director also reviews degree plans for accuracy.

H. Financial Assistance

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students desiring a university scholarship or financial aid should contact the [University Financial Aid Office](#) for information. Students should apply for scholarships or university financial aid and scholarships several months in advance of enrollment.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of nursing teaching and research assistantships, and nursing scholarships are available. Students desiring to apply for either a research or teaching assistantship should contact the PhD or DNP Program Director or Associate Dean for Research and then file an application with the CON Associate Dean on the appropriate campus. This is the link for that application and related information. <https://twu.edu/gradschool/graduate-assistants/applying-for-graduate-assistantships/>

Students receiving full-time assistantships (20 hours per week) are eligible for in-state tuition and health insurance. In order to take advantage of the health insurance benefits, the student must:

- (1) Work at least 20 hours per week,
- (2) Have an appointment of 4 1/2 months or greater, and
- (3) Enroll for health insurance with the Human Resources Office within 31 days of their employment/eligibility data.

Students interested in this benefit should contact the Human Resources Office for specific details. If an assistantship is approved, the student is required to complete certain forms in the Human Resources Office before the payroll deadline and before the Graduate Assistant can be paid. Graduate Assistants will need to present proof of citizenship and employment eligibility to the Office of Human Resources.

Graduate Assistants are paid monthly on the first working day of the month following the month worked. Before a paycheck can be received all the necessary Human Resources Office forms must have been completed.

A PhD/DNP student may hold an assistantship for not more than four years. A graduate student who pursues both the master's degree and the doctoral degree at TWU may hold an assistantship for no more than six years. Students holding assistantships are expected to be enrolled for a minimum of 9 credit hours; the maximum credit hours in which an assistant can be enrolled are 12. Under special circumstances, the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School may grant special permission for an assistantship for a student enrolled for 6 hours.

Opportunities also exist for students to be research assistants for faculty who have received funding for their research projects. These research assistants will be selected by the funded faculty. Research assistants are generally funded at the same level as teaching assistants.

I. Coursework

a. Length of Program

Students considering the doctoral program should plan on a **minimum** of 3 years (8 semesters) to complete required course work taking at least 6

22

hours each semester including summers.

All requirements toward a doctoral degree, aside from a completed master's degree, must be completed within a period of eight consecutive calendar years from the date doctoral semester hour credit is first earned.

<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/general-requirements-regulations-doctoral-degrees/time-limits/>

Part-time Enrollment

Students planning part-time enrollment need to consult closely with their advisor and/or the DNP Program Director so that required nursing courses can be taken in the recommended sequence. While a full-time student can complete the required course work in a minimum of three years, the part-time student will require a longer time period depending upon their availability to take required course work.

Excess Hours for Doctoral Students

TWU doctoral students are charged at the non-resident tuition rate for any doctoral work in excess of 99 semester hours. By state exception, students in Counseling Psychology, Family Therapy, Nursing Science, and School Psychology are charged at the non-resident tuition rate for any doctoral work in excess of 130 semester hours. All semester hours listed as I, NG, PR, W, WF, and X on the transcript are included in the total doctoral hours. Doctoral students should work carefully with their advisors to plan a course of study that will prevent their inadvertently exceeding the limitation.

<https://servicecenter.twu.edu/TDCClient/1956/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=24373>

b. Degree Requirements:

Link to general requirements for DNP Program:

<https://twu.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/doctor-of-nursing-practice-dnp/>

Special Requirements:

- A grade of B or better is required in all required courses. A student who

has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, or F) in two required courses at the graduate level or who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, or F) twice in the same graduate level required course will be removed from the nursing program. For the purpose of removal from

23

the nursing program, a grade of less than B is counted as a grade of less than B even if the course has been successfully repeated.

- Course drops by the final drop deadline will receive an automatic W grade, which is a non-punitive grade. Failure to submit a completed and signed drop form by the published deadline will cause the student to receive the final grade earned. For graduate school policy regarding dropping courses or withdrawing from the university, see the following link:

<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/academic-information/dropping-course/>

- The College of Nursing has an appeal procedure should a student wish to appeal a grade. That procedure is available from the DNP Program Director. The Graduate School appeal procedure can be found on-line at:

<https://twu.edu/academic-affairs/academic-complaints-appeals/>

c. Minor

DNP students may choose to apply their elective hours towards a minor. A minor is available only in the areas in which the University offers a major at the doctoral level. Students must obtain approval and advisement from the minor area prior to pursuing the minor. For guidance, see the graduate catalog at

<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/general-requirements-regulations-masters-degrees/major-minor-subject/>

d. Scholarly Portfolio

The Scholarly Portfolio documents the student's accomplishments in meeting the program objectives of the DNP program. Components of the portfolio will demonstrate academic and professional growth and development in an organized, coherent format in order to facilitate evaluation by the student's Academic Advisor. Students are responsible for scheduling regular meetings, according to the timeline, with their Academic Advisor. All DNP Portfolio Components must be completed following admission to the DNP program

J. DNP Project Courses

a. Policy for Assigning DNP Project (NURS 6303) Course Grades

During semesters in which the student is taking NURS 6303 DNP Scholarly Project (previous curriculum), a non-credit course grade is assigned.

Non-credit options for the NURS 6303 course include:

- PR (in progress) – No semester credit hours nor effect on GPA. Consistent or adequate progress made toward course objectives in the current semester.
- LP (lack of adequate progress) – No semester credit hours nor effect on GPA. Minimal progress made toward course objectives in the current semester. Examples include but are not limited to the following: failure to meet predetermined goals or timeline, submission of products that lack substance or completeness, inability to critically and/or correctly analyze and synthesize literature data.
- NP (no progress) – No semester credit hours nor effect on GPA. No progress made toward the course objective in the current semester. Examples include but are not limited to the following: extreme lack of communication between the student and the DNP Faculty Lead, no evidence of progress toward completing the DNP course assignments, or failure to submit written materials as requested by the DNP Faculty Lead.

Any DNP student in the College of Nursing receiving two consecutive semester grades of LP (lack of adequate progress) and/or NP (no progress) or three cumulative semester grades of LP/NP in the DNP course (NURS 6303) will be dismissed from the program. Any student receiving the grade of NP or LP will be required to meet with an Academic Advisor to establish a progression plan. Only enrolled graduate students may consult with faculty, access library resources, or use technology, writing, statistical or other services. This rule applies to students in both the online and hybrid DNP programs.

- a. After receiving unqualified approval, guidelines for the protection of human subjects must be followed including obtaining institutional Review Board approval to conduct the study. Guidelines for preparation of the IRB application are available from the [Institutional Review Board](#). This process also includes obtaining approval from any participating agency where subjects are being recruited **prior** to initiation of data collection. The student may complete an application for IRB approval

using the online system Cayuse IRB. Instructions and access to the Cayuse system can be found at <https://twu.edu/institutional-review-board-irb/cayuse/>. CITI Human

25

Subjects Training is required prior to IRB application and the requirements can be found at <https://twu.edu/institutional-review-board-irb/training-requirements/>

- b. Students should complete the [graduation checklist](#) to ensure that they have completed all the necessary forms and paperwork for graduation.

Students are responsible for knowing the most recent information regarding the filing dates, graduation application dates, and fees required for graduation. This information is available in the Graduate School office and on the [Graduate School's website](#).

b. Roll-over of Graduation

Students who find that they will not graduate the semester for which they originally applied may change their graduation date to the following/upcoming semester and not repay the diploma fee by submitting a “roll-over” form to the Graduate School by the roll-over deadline (<https://twu.edu/gradschool/forms/>). A student’s graduation application may be “rolled-over” a maximum of two times, after which a new graduation application must be submitted by the published due date, and another graduation application fee will be charged. Please review the Degree Completion page on the Graduate School website & the graduate catalog for more information.

Appendix A.

DNP Program Crosswalk Table

| <p>DNP Program Learning Objectives/ Competencies</p> <p>At the completion of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program the student will be able to:</p> | <p>AACN: The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education</p> <p>(AACN, 2021)</p> | <p>AONL: Nurse Executive Competencies</p> <p>(AONL, 2015)</p> | <p>NONPF: Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content</p> <p>(NONPF, 2017)</p> | <p>Quality and Safety Education for Nurses: Graduate QSEN Competencies</p> <p>(QSEN, 2007)</p> |
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| <p>Constructively integrate systems thinking, translational theories and care models to support and improve patient care and healthcare systems.</p> | <p>Knowledge for Nursing Practice (1.1, 1.3)</p> <p>Quality and Safety (5.1)</p> | <p>Knowledge of the HealthCare Environment (E)</p> <p>Leadership (A, C)</p> | <p>Scientific Foundation Competencies (3, 4)</p> <p>Practice Inquiry Competencies (1-3)</p> | <p>Quality Improvement</p> |
| <p>Critically evaluate the impact of unique Approaches to complex problems in the health care system.</p> | <p>Quality and Safety (5.1)</p> <p>Person-Centered Care (2.7)</p> | <p>Leadership (A, C)</p> | <p>Scientific Foundation Competencies (3, 4)</p> <p>Health Delivery System (1)</p> | |

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| <p>Selectively integrate ethical principles and professional values to advanced nursing practice to improve population health and healthcare systems.</p> | <p>Knowledge for Nursing Practice (1.2)</p> <p>Population Health (3.6)</p> <p>Systems-Based Practice (7.2)</p> <p>Professionalism (9.1)</p> | <p>Knowledge of the HealthCare Environment (A)</p> <p>Professionalism (C)</p> | <p>Ethics Competencies (1-3)</p> <p>Independent Practice (2)</p> | <p>Patient-Centered Care</p> <p>Quality Improvement</p> |
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| <p>Effectively integrate leadership, professional development, and competencies for lifelong learning as advanced nurses in delivering safe, quality care.</p> | <p>Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development (10.2)</p> | <p>Professionalism (A)</p> | <p>Leadership (1, 5, 7) Quality (1)</p> <p>Practice Inquiry (2)</p> <p>Independent Practice (8)</p> | |
| <p>Critically appraise healthcare policies and practices that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion within a healthcare system.</p> | <p>Professionalism (9.2, 9.3, 9.6)</p> <p>Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development (10.3)</p> <p>Population Health (3.4)</p> <p>Interprofessional Partnerships (6.4)</p> <p>Systems-Based Practice (7.1)</p> | <p>Communication and Relationship Building (A, D)</p> | <p>Policy Competencies (2)</p> <p>Leadership Competencies (4)</p> <p>Health Delivery System (3, 4)</p> <p>Independent Practice (4, 5)</p> | <p>Patient-Centered Care Teamwork and Collaboration</p> |

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| <p>Comprehensively validate the incorporation of clinical prevention, population health initiatives, and evidence-based health policy through interprofessional and stakeholder collaboration.</p> | <p>Population Health (3.1, 3.2)</p> <p>Interprofessional Partnerships (6.1, 6.2)</p> | | <p>Leadership (2, 7)</p> <p>Practice Inquiry (4, 5)</p> <p>Health Delivery System (5)</p> | <p>Teamwork and Collaboration</p> |
| <p>Design, implement and disseminate DNP project outcomes to promote evidence-based practice.</p> | <p>Scholarship for the Nursing Discipline (4.1)</p> | | <p>Practice Inquiry (1, 2, 3, 5)</p> | <p>Evidence-Based Practice</p> |

Appendix B.

History of the College of Nursing

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| <p>1901</p> | <p>An educational institution was created by the State Legislature as a multipurpose institution. It was established as a single-sex institution with enrollment limited to women. Originally named the Girls Industrial College, the first students were admitted in September.</p> |
| <p>1934</p> | <p>The name of the institution was changed to the Texas State College for Women to describe more accurately the scope of the school.</p> |
| <p>1954</p> | <p>First collegiate nursing students were enrolled.</p> |
| <p>1958</p> | <p>Maximum enrollment of students was reached in the Dallas Center.</p> <p>An invitation to develop a second clinical center with the Texas Medical Center in Houston was received and contractual agreements were reached.</p> |

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| 1960 | Sophomore students registered in Dallas and Houston for the first time. |
| 1966 | Master's program with a major in Psychiatric-Mental health Nursing admitted first nursing students. |
| 1970 | Sigma Theta Tau, National Honor Society of Nursing, Beta Chapter – Induction of Charter Members from Denton, Dallas, and Houston. |
| 1971 | PhD in nursing program (first in the Southwest) admitted students to Denton campus. |

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| 1972 | The University adopted a new academic organization and established the Institute of Health Sciences. The first in the state, the Institute consisted of the College of Nursing, the Schools of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, and the new School of Health Care Services. In compliance with Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and Title IX of the Higher Education Act, TWU admissions policy was amended to allow qualified males into the Institute of Health Sciences and Graduate School. |
| 1974 | Denton accepted upper division nursing students. |
| 1975 | Dallas Presbyterian opened as a clinical center. |
| 1983 | PhD students were admitted to the Houston Center. |

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| <p>1988</p> | <p>The master's and baccalaureate programs received 8 years of accreditation from the National League for Nursing.</p> <p>The College of Nursing Community Health Master's Program received an Advance Nurse Education training Grant from the US Department of Human Services, Division of Public Health.</p> <p>De Madres a Madres was founded with seed grant money from the Houston March of Dimes. This is a community-based organization developed by volunteers living in Houston's Hispanic north Side Community and Texas Woman's University College of Nursing faculty and students. The purpose of the organization is to assist neighborhood women to obtain health and social services essential for a healthy pregnancy.</p> |
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| <p>1989</p> | <p>TWU C.A.R.E.S. (Community Assessment Referral and Education Services), a nurse-managed health center located in a low-income housing project in Denton County, was established. It is an example of the Texas Woman's University</p> <p>College of Nursing's commitment to prepare students to provide care to the underserved. This center was initially developed through the collaborative efforts of students and faculty of the College of Nursing and Marian Hamilton, Director of the Denton Housing Authority. The center provides a richness of education that cannot be found within the traditional academic settings.</p> |
| <p>1991</p> | <p>Dr. Shirley S. Charter, President of Texas Woman's University, was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to chair the Health Policy Task Force, which proposed, in 1992, a comprehensive plan to address the health care needs and health insurance needs of all Texans. The de Madres a Madres organization was funded for 43 years by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.</p> |
| <p>1992</p> | <p>The Parry Nursing Professorship in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention was established.</p> |

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| 1994 | Dr. Carol Surles was selected as the University's ninth president. The Family Nurse Practitioner program was started in Denton and Houston. |
| 1995 | The master's curriculum was revised. The Family Nurse Practitioner program was started in Dallas. |
| 1997 | The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) review resulted in an 8- year reaccreditation of the program. |
| 1998 | Masters' programs were expanded to include CNS (Adult, Child, Community, Women's, and Mental Health) and Nurse Practitioner (Adult, Family, Pediatric, and Women's Health). |

31

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| 2000 | Dr. Ann Stuart was selected as the University's 10th president. |
| 2004 | The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) review resulted in a full ten-year accreditation of the program. |
| 2005 | The College of Nursing celebrated its 50th Anniversary with continuing education events celebrating nursing and festivities with local and state dignitaries and nursing alumni. |
| 2005 | The Memorial Hermann Community Foundation provided \$500,000 to create a Center for Telenursing and Health Informatics on the Houston Center that would provide teaching through simulation, informatics, and telenursing. |

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| 2006 | The Nelda C. Stark College of Nursing was named within the newly erected Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center providing a new home and name for the College of Nursing in Houston |
| 2007 | A \$5 million gift from T. Boone Pickens to Texas Woman's University helped fund construction of TWU's new \$32 million T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center. Mr. Pickens' donation is the largest single gift from an individual to TWU. The new building was completed in January 2011. This new center houses the physical and occupational therapy programs along with the College of Nursing, combining both the Presbyterian and Parkland Centers into one site at the Parkland Campus. |
| 2007 | An acute care nurse practitioner major was approved to begin on the Houston Campus. The program began in the fall semester of 2007. |
| 2008 | The post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program began on the Dallas campus. The program was open to nurse's holding advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) degrees (NP, CNS, CRNA, and CNM). |

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| 2010 | Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Endowed Chair in Nursing for Teaching Excellence was established Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Endowed Chair for Nursing Informatics was established |
| 2011 | The DNP to PhD Bridge program began admitting students. The program was open to nurse's holding a DNP degree from an accredited university. |
| 2014 | The post-master's DNP program expanded its reach to the Houston campus |
| 2020 | A new PhD in Nursing Science curriculum was implemented. |

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| 2021 | The post-master's DNP program was revised and opened to non-APRN applicants on all three of TWU's campuses. |
| 2021 | <p>The Doswell Endowed Chair in Nursing for Teaching Excellence was renamed the Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Endowed Chair in Nursing for Innovation and Discovery.</p> <p>The Doswell Endowed Chair for Nursing Informatics was renamed the Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell Endowed Chair in Nursing Informatics and Health Care Transformation.</p> |
| 2021 | TWU became a public university system on May 26, 2021. |

Appendix C.

DNP Project Guideline ■ [TWU DNP Scholarly Project Guideline REV3 CT .pdf](#)