



YOUNGSTOWN STATE  
UNIVERSITY CENTOFANTI  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduate Nursing Student Handbook

2026-2027

Revised 8/2026

CENTOFANTI  
*School of Nursing*



## Table of Contents

|                                                                                  |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 1. Introduction .....</b>                                             | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1 Welcome .....                                                                | 4         |
| 1.2 About the Centofanti School of Nursing .....                                 | 4         |
| 1.3 Accreditation .....                                                          | 5         |
| 1.4 Mission and Core Values .....                                                | 5         |
| 1.5 Graduate Nursing Programs.....                                               | 5         |
| 1.6 MSN Program Student Learning Outcomes .....                                  | 5         |
| 1.7 Program competencies .....                                                   | 6         |
| 1.8 Curriculum Plans .....                                                       | 6         |
| 1.9 Student Responsibility Statement.....                                        | 6         |
| 1.10 University Resources .....                                                  | 7         |
| <b>Chapter 2. Admissions, Enrollment, Progression, and Graduation(APG) .....</b> | <b>7</b>  |
| 2.1 Graduate School Admission .....                                              | 7         |
| 2.2 MSN Program Admission Requirements.....                                      | 7         |
| 2.3 International Applicants .....                                               | 9         |
| 2.4 Types of Admission .....                                                     | 9         |
| 2.5 Transfer Credit .....                                                        | 9         |
| <b>Chapter 3. Enrollment .....</b>                                               | <b>10</b> |
| 3.1 Academic Advising .....                                                      | 10        |
| 3.2 Registration .....                                                           | 111       |
| 3.3 Late Registration .....                                                      | 11        |
| 3.4 Registration Changes and Withdrawal.....                                     | 11        |
| 3.5 Required Educational Technology .....                                        | 12        |
| 3.6 Enrollment Status .....                                                      | 12        |
| 3.7 Continuous Enrollment .....                                                  | 13        |
| 3.8 Leave of Absence .....                                                       | 13        |
| 3.9 Administrative Withdrawal .....                                              | 13        |
| 3.10 Time Limits for Degree Completion .....                                     | 144       |
| <b>Chapter 4. Academic Progression .....</b>                                     | <b>14</b> |
| 4.1 Progression .....                                                            | 14        |
| 4.2 Minimum Grade Point Average .....                                            | 15        |
| 4.3 Course Grade Requirements and Course Repetition .....                        | 15        |
| 4.4 Incomplete Grades .....                                                      | 15        |
| 4.5 Academic Standing .....                                                      | 15        |
| 4.6 Academic Suspension/Dismissal .....                                          | 16        |
| 4.7 Policy Changes and Student Notifications .....                               | 16        |
| 4.8 Admissions, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee.....                 | 16        |
| 4.9 Readmission .....                                                            | 17        |
| 4.10 Appeals .....                                                               | 17        |
| <b>Chapter 5. Clinical Education .....</b>                                       | <b>18</b> |
| 5.1 Clinical Placement .....                                                     | 18        |

|                                                                      |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5.2 Clinical Site Expectations .....                                 | 18        |
| 5.3 Clinical Attendance .....                                        | 19        |
| 5.4 Professional Conduct .....                                       | 19        |
| 5.5 Work Hours During Clinical Practicum.....                        | 20        |
| 5.6 Responsibilities .....                                           | 20        |
| 5.7 Dress Code and Identification .....                              | 22        |
| 5.8 Exxat Clinical Compliance and Documentation System .....         | 23        |
| 5.9 Clinical Compliance Requirements .....                           | 233       |
| 5.10 Student Health, Medical Clearance, and Return to Clinical ..... | 24        |
| 5.11 Fitness for Clinical Practice .....                             | 24        |
| 5.12 Technical Standards.....                                        | 255       |
| 5.13 Clinical Progression .....                                      | 266       |
| 5.14 Clinical Remediation.....                                       | 27        |
| 5.15 Liability Insurance.....                                        | 27        |
| 5.16 Confidentiality .....                                           | 28        |
| 5.17 Social Media and Electronic Communication .....                 | 28        |
| 5.18 Patient Safety and Unsafe Clinical Practice .....               | 29        |
| 5.19 Clinical Incident Reporting .....                               | 30        |
| <b>Chapter 6. Graduation and Certification .....</b>                 | <b>31</b> |
| 6.1 Graduation Requirements .....                                    | 31        |
| 6.2 Advanced Pharmacology Requirement for APRN Licensure.....        | 31        |
| 6.3 National Certification Eligibility .....                         | 311       |
| 6.4 APRN Licensure .....                                             | 322       |

## **Chapter 1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Welcome**

Welcome to the Graduate Nursing Programs at the Centofanti School of Nursing. We are pleased you have chosen Youngstown State University to pursue your graduate nursing education. This handbook has been developed to provide information regarding academic policies, program requirements, clinical education, and student resources to support your success throughout the program.

Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the policies contained in this handbook, the Youngstown State University Graduate Catalog, and all applicable University policies. This handbook supplements, but does not replace, official University policies. In the event of a conflict, University policies shall prevail.

The information contained in this handbook is subject to revision. Students are responsible for remaining informed of policy updates communicated by the School of Nursing or the University.

### **1.2 About the Centofanti School of Nursing**

The Centofanti School of Nursing, part of the Dominic A. and Helen M. Bitonte College of Health and Human Services at Youngstown State University, is committed to preparing highly qualified nursing professionals through excellence in education, scholarship, clinical practice, and service. Since its founding in 1967, the School has developed a strong reputation for academic excellence and preparing graduates to meet the evolving healthcare needs of individuals, families, and communities.

The School offers undergraduate and graduate nursing programs that emphasize evidence-based practice, clinical reasoning, interprofessional collaboration, leadership, and lifelong learning. Graduate nursing programs prepare advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse educators, and nurse anesthetists to provide high-quality, patient-centered care across diverse healthcare settings.

Through innovative teaching, simulation, clinical partnerships, and experiential learning, the Centofanti School of Nursing fosters the knowledge, skills, and professional values necessary for graduates to become competent, compassionate, and ethical leaders in the nursing profession.

Additional information regarding the history of the Centofanti School of Nursing is available on the School of Nursing website.

### 1.3 Accreditation

Youngstown State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Nurse Anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).

### 1.4 Mission and Core Values

#### Youngstown State University Mission

*An Institution of Opportunity: Youngstown State University inspires individuals, enhances futures, and enriches lives.*

#### University Core Values

- Centrality of Students
- Excellence and Innovation
- Integrity and Human Dignity
- Collaboration and Public Engagement

#### College of Graduate Studies Mission

The College of Graduate Studies prepares diverse and highly skilled professionals, leaders, collaborators, and innovative thinkers through excellence in education, research, and creative works.

### 1.5 Graduate Nursing Programs

The Centofanti School of Nursing offers graduate programs designed to prepare nurses for advanced clinical practice, education, and leadership. Graduate programs include:

- Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
- Nurse Anesthesia (DNP)
- Nursing Education (MSN)

### 1.6 MSN Program Student Learning Outcomes

All graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Synthesize theory and research from nursing and related disciplines for advanced nursing roles.

- Utilize leadership strategies to influence health and health care and to promote the nursing profession in the advanced nursing role.
- Expand the knowledge of evidence-based practice by identifying nursing research problems and contributing to research investigations.
- Integrate assessment of own learning in developing a lifelong pattern of scholarly inquiry.

Upon successful completion of the MSN program, graduates are eligible to sit for national certification examinations. Once certified, graduates must apply for a Certificate of Authority to practice as an Advanced Practice Nurse in the State of Ohio or in the state in which they intend to practice.

## 1.7 Program competencies

The graduate nursing programs at the Centofanti School of Nursing are designed to prepare graduates who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors required for advanced nursing practice. The curriculum is aligned with the **American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education** and specialty competencies established by the **National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)**, as applicable to each nurse practitioner program.

Students are expected to progressively develop and demonstrate competency throughout the curriculum and clinical experiences. Achievement of these competencies is evaluated through coursework, simulation, clinical practicum experiences, and program assessments.

## 1.8 Curriculum Plans

A copy of each specific program curriculum plan can be found on Blackboard in the Graduate Nursing Orientation Module under Getting Started.

## 1.9 Student Responsibility Statement

Students are responsible for:

- Reading and complying with this handbook.
- Understanding University and School of Nursing policies.
- Reviewing course syllabi, Graduate Nursing Orientation Module, and program requirements.
- Maintaining current contact information with the University.
- Monitoring official University email communications.
- Remaining informed of policy updates throughout the program.

## 1.10 University Resources

Additional information regarding graduate policies, academic regulations, calendars, and student services is available through:

- Youngstown State University Graduate Catalog
- College of Graduate Studies
- Centofanti School of Nursing
- Office of Accessibility Services
- Penguin Portal
- University Library

## Chapter 2. Admissions, Enrollment, Progression, and Graduation

### 2.1 Graduate School Admission

Admission to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program requires acceptance by both the **Youngstown State University College of Graduate Studies** and the **Centofanti School of Nursing**.

General admission procedures, application requirements, deadlines, and university policies are maintained by the College of Graduate Studies.

#### Graduate Studies Admission Information

<https://ysu.edu/academics/college-graduate-studies/admission>

### 2.2 MSN Program Admission Requirements

In addition to the admission requirements established by the College of Graduate Studies, applicants must meet the program-specific requirements for their selected MSN concentration.

#### General Admission Requirements (All MSN Concentrations)

Applicants to all MSN programs must:

- Complete the Graduate Admissions Application and pay the **non-refundable application fee**.
- Hold a **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** from an accredited nursing program.
- Meet the requirements for **regular admission**, including:
  - Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of **3.0**.
  - Minimum graduate GPA of **3.0** for any previous graduate coursework (if applicable).
  - Verification of required nursing work experience.

- Have a minimum of **one (1) year of recent\*** practice as a registered nurse prior to the admission start date.
- Submit **official transcripts** from all colleges and universities attended.
- Hold a **current, unencumbered RN license** in the state where the student is licensed, practices, and will complete practicum experiences.
- Complete a **Supplemental Employment Verification Form** as part of the application process to verify recent clinical nursing experience.
- Maintain the following throughout the program:
  - Current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification
  - Required immunizations
  - Annual drug screening
  - Annual criminal background check

\*Recent clinical experience is defined as registered nurse clinical practice within **three (3) years** of admission.

### State Authorization

Youngstown State University's online nursing programs may only admit students residing in states where the University is authorized to offer nursing education. Students enrolled in online MSN programs must complete the program while residing in **Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Michigan**.

### Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Students must meet the General Admission Requirements.

### Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)

In addition to the General Admission Requirements, applicants must:

- Have a minimum of **one (1) year of recent critical care experience** prior to admission. Acceptable settings include:
  - Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
  - Emergency Department (ED)
  - Intermediate or Progressive Care Units
  - Other acute care settings as approved by the program
- Obtain **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)** certification prior to the start of clinical courses.

### Nurse Education (N.ED.)

Students must meet the General Admission Requirements.



## **Post-master's Certificate Programs & Advanced Placement Certificate**

Applicants must meet the same admission requirements as the corresponding MSN concentration for which the certificate is sought.

### **Nurse Anesthesia (DNP)**

Admission to the Nurse Anesthesia Program is administered jointly by **Youngstown State University** and the **St. Elizabeth School of Nurse Anesthesia**.

Applicants must first be admitted to the **St. Elizabeth School of Nurse Anesthesia** before being admitted to Youngstown State University.

For additional information, visit:

[www.ytowncrnaschool.com](http://www.ytowncrnaschool.com)

## **2.3 International Applicants**

Information regarding international students may be viewed at <https://ysu.edu/international-programs-office/apply-now/quick-menu/international-graduate-admissions> For additional information on International Admissions contact: The International Programs Office at [ipo@ysu.edu](mailto:ipo@ysu.edu) or +1-330-941-2336.

## **2.4 Types of Admission**

### **Regular Admission**

Students who meet all admission requirements will be granted regular admission for the graduate program in which they wish to enroll.

### **Undetermined Major**

A student may take up to 3 courses (9 semester hours) as an undetermined major but will need to meet admission requirements upon application.

## **2.5 Transfer Credit**

Transfer credit is evaluated in accordance with the policies of the Youngstown State University College of Graduate Studies. Students seeking transfer credit are responsible for initiating the review process by submitting a request to the MSN Program Director and providing an official course syllabus for each course under consideration.

Students in the **Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)** and **Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)** programs may transfer a maximum of **12 semester credit hours**. Students in the **Nursing Education** program may transfer a maximum of **9 semester credit hours**.

To be eligible for transfer, coursework must:

- Have been completed at a regionally accredited institution within the previous **four (4) years**.
- Be equivalent in content and credit hours to the corresponding Youngstown State University course.
- Have been completed with a grade of **A or B**. Grades of **B-, S (Satisfactory)**, or **CR (Credit)** are not accepted.
- Meet all College of Graduate Studies requirements for transfer credit.

The following graduate core courses may be considered for transfer:

- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Advanced Physical Assessment
- Theoretical Foundations
- Healthcare Issues and Trends

Specialty didactic, clinical, and practicum courses are **not eligible** for transfer and must be completed at Youngstown State University.

In accordance with the College of Graduate Studies, all coursework applied toward the degree, including approved transfer credits, must satisfy the University's time limits for degree completion.

## Chapter 3. Enrollment

### 3.1 Academic Advising

Upon admission to the MSN program, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who serves as the primary academic resource throughout the program. While advisors assist students in planning their program of study, students are ultimately responsible for understanding and fulfilling all degree requirements, complying with University and School of Nursing policies, and ensuring timely completion of graduation requirements.

Students should consult their advisor before making changes to their program of study, requesting transfer credit, taking a leave of absence, or when experiencing academic or progression concerns.

## **3.2 Registration**

Students register for classes through the **YSU Penguin Portal**. Registration dates and times are assigned by the University based on student classification and completed credit hours. Current registration schedules, deadlines, and important academic dates are available through the Penguin Portal and the Office of the Registrar.

By registering for classes, students accept responsibility for the payment of all tuition and applicable fees. Students who choose not to attend a registered course remain financially responsible unless they officially drop or withdraw from the course in accordance with University deadlines and procedures.

## **3.3 Late Registration**

Students who register after the published registration deadline are subject to University late registration policies and deadlines. Late registration may require approval by the College of Graduate Studies and the School of Nursing and may delay access to course materials or clinical placement activities. Students are responsible for ensuring that all registration requirements are completed prior to the start of classes.

## **3.4 Registration Changes and Withdrawal**

### **Add/Drop**

Students may add or modify their course schedule through the Penguin Portal until the published add/drop deadline for the academic term.

### **Course Withdrawal**

Students wishing to withdraw from one or more courses must complete the official withdrawal process through the Penguin Portal. Failure to attend class or notify course faculty does not constitute an official withdrawal and may result in a failing grade.

### **Complete Withdrawal from the University**

Students withdrawing from all courses during a semester must complete the official withdrawal process through the Penguin Portal. Students who completely withdraw during the first two weeks of the semester will receive the appropriate transcript notation in accordance with University policy.

### 3.5 Required Educational Technology

#### Sentinel U Virtual Client Encounters®

- Sentinel U Virtual Client Encounters® – Readiness Essentials: Advanced® is a required educational platform for all students enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner programs. The platform is integrated throughout the curriculum to enhance clinical reasoning, diagnostic decision-making, advanced pathophysiology, pharmacology, physical assessment, and evidence-based practice through interactive virtual patient encounters.
- Students are required to purchase Sentinel U prior to the start of the first semester and maintain an active account throughout enrollment in the program. Students are responsible for completing all assigned Sentinel U learning activities by established course deadlines.
- Sentinel U assignments may be incorporated into didactic, laboratory, simulation, and clinical courses. Failure to complete required Sentinel U activities may adversely affect course performance and progression in accordance with course syllabi and School of Nursing policies.
- Course-specific instructions for account activation and access will be provided within each course. Technical support for the platform is available through Sentinel U, while questions regarding course assignments should be directed to the course faculty.

#### Technology Requirements and Support

- Students are responsible for maintaining reliable access to a computer, internet connection, and required software needed to complete the course. Students should plan ahead and allow sufficient time to complete and submit coursework by published deadlines. **Tablets/iPads and cell phones are prohibited to use for class assignments.**

### 3.6 Enrollment Status

Graduate students are classified as full-time or part-time based on their enrollment status. Because the MSN Nurse Practitioner programs are delivered in an accelerated seven-week format, enrollment differs from the traditional University definition.

| Enrollment Status | Accelerated MSN Program                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Full-Time         | Two 3-credit-hour core courses (6 credit hours) per term                                                                                                                            |
| Part-Time         | One 3-credit-hour core course per term                                                                                                                                              |
| Specialty Courses | Students enrolled in specialty courses are limited to one specialty course per term, which constitutes full-time status. A practicum and didactic course may not be taken together. |

### 3.7 Continuous Enrollment

Students who are absent from enrollment for two or more consecutive seven-week terms (excluding approved continuous enrollment courses, such as NURS 6900, when applicable) may be required to complete an individualized academic remediation plan before resuming coursework. The nature of the remediation will be determined by the Program Director based on the student's previous academic performance, curriculum changes, and progression requirements.

### 3.8 Leave of Absence

Students who are unable to maintain continuous enrollment due to medical, personal, military, or other extenuating circumstances may request a Leave of Absence (LOA). Requests must be submitted in writing to the Program Director and are subject to approval in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

An approved Leave of Absence does not pause or extend the Centofanti School of Nursing's four-year maximum time allowed for degree completion. Students who do not return by the approved date or who fail to request an extension, if applicable, may be administratively withdrawn and required to apply for readmission in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

Students returning from a Leave of Absence must meet all current University, School of Nursing, and clinical compliance requirements. Requirements related to returning to clinical practice are described in **Section 5.14 Clinical Progression**.

### 3.9 Administrative Withdrawal

The Centofanti School of Nursing reserves the right to administratively withdraw a student from the graduate nursing program when the student is unable to continue enrollment or fails to meet essential program requirements.

Administrative withdrawal may occur for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Failure to register for required coursework within the approved program plan.
- Failure to return from an approved Leave of Absence by the approved date.
- Failure to maintain required clinical compliance documentation or certifications.
- Failure to begin or complete required clinical experiences.
- Failure to respond to official University or School of Nursing communications regarding enrollment or progression.
- Abandonment of the program through prolonged nonparticipation without notification.
- Failure to meet other University or School of Nursing enrollment requirements.

Students who are administratively withdrawn and wish to return to the graduate nursing program must apply for readmission and meet all current admission, progression, and curriculum requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

### **3.10 Time Limits for Degree Completion**

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) curriculum is designed to be completed through continuous enrollment. Students may complete the program in approximately **22 months** as full-time students or **36 months** as part-time students.

**All requirements for the MSN degree, including approved transfer credits, must be completed within forty-eight (48) months (4 years) of the student's initial enrollment in the program.** The 48-month time limit includes all coursework applied toward the degree, regardless of whether the coursework was completed at Youngstown State University or accepted as transfer credit.

Students who are unable to complete the program within the required timeframe must request an extension from the Program Director. Approval of an extension is not guaranteed and is subject to University and School of Nursing policies. Students granted an extension may be required to complete additional coursework, remediation, or satisfy revised curriculum requirements prior to graduation.

## **Chapter 4. Academic Progression**

### **4.1 Progression**

Students enrolled in the MSN program are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout the curriculum. Academic progression is based on successful completion of required coursework, maintenance of the minimum grade point average, achievement of required course grades, and compliance with all University and School of Nursing academic policies.

Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to all progression requirements outlined in the Graduate Catalog and this Student Handbook.

To progress in the curriculum, students must:

Maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of **3.0** or higher.

- Earn the minimum required grade in all required nursing courses.
- Successfully complete all clinical and practicum requirements.
- Meet program progression requirements within established time limits.
- Comply with all University and School of Nursing academic and professional standards.

## 4.2 Minimum Grade Point Average

Students must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of **3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)** to remain in good academic standing and to graduate from the MSN program.

All graduate coursework completed at Youngstown State University is included in the cumulative GPA calculation in accordance with University policy.

## 4.3 Course Grade Requirements and Course Repetition

Students must earn a minimum grade of **B** in all required MSN courses to progress in the curriculum.

A grade of **C or lower** in a required course requires the student to repeat the course before progressing to subsequent coursework. A required course may be repeated **one time only**.

The original grade remains on the student's transcript and is included in the cumulative graduate GPA calculation in accordance with University policy. Students must earn a grade of **B or higher** on the second attempt to remain eligible for progression.

Students may repeat **no more than two required nursing courses** during the MSN program.

Failure to achieve the minimum required course grade after the second attempt or to exceed the maximum number of allowable course repetitions will result in dismissal from the graduate nursing program in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

## 4.4 Incomplete Grades

Students who receive a grade of Incomplete (I) in a required graduate nursing course may not progress to subsequent courses. All incomplete grades must be resolved through the official University grade change process before progression in the curriculum. Students must earn the minimum required course grade before enrolling in the next course sequence.

The final dates to complete an Incomplete ("I") grade are:

- Fall term: March 1
- Spring term: July 1
- Summer term: October 1

## 4.5 Academic Standing

Students are expected to remain in good academic standing throughout the graduate nursing program. Good academic standing is achieved by meeting all academic and program progression requirements, including maintaining the required cumulative graduate grade point

average, earning the minimum required grades in all required courses, successfully completing clinical and practicum requirements, and complying with all University and Centofanti School of Nursing academic and professional standards.

Students who fail to maintain good academic standing may be subject to academic probation, suspension, dismissal, or other actions in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

#### **4.6 Academic Suspension/Dismissal**

Students who fail to meet the academic or progression requirements of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program may be placed on academic probation, suspended, or dismissed from the program in accordance with Youngstown State University College of Graduate Studies and School of Nursing policies.

Grounds for academic suspension or dismissal may include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- Failure to achieve the minimum required grade in a required course.
- Failure to successfully repeat a required course.
- Failure to meet academic or program progression requirements.

Students are encouraged to review the Youngstown State University College of Graduate Studies policies regarding academic standing, suspension, and dismissal.

Academic suspension or dismissal decisions may be reviewed by the Admissions, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee in accordance with School of Nursing and University policies.

#### **4.7 Policy Changes and Student Notification**

The MSN Program reserves the right to modify, revise, or implement program policies as needed to ensure compliance with university requirements, accreditation standards, professional standards, and program needs. Students will be notified of policy changes via their YSU email address. Students are responsible for regularly monitoring their YSU email and are expected to review and comply with all policy changes upon notification. Policy changes will be effective on the date specified in the notification and will apply as stated therein

#### **4.8 Admissions, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee**

The Admissions, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee serves as the graduate nursing program committee responsible for reviewing matters related to student admission, academic progression, clinical progression, readmission, graduation eligibility, and selected student appeals. The committee reviews student records and other relevant information and makes



recommendations to the Program Director, School of Nursing administration, and other appropriate University officials in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

The APG Committee may review matters including, but not limited to:

- Admission decisions and exceptions, when applicable
- Academic progression concerns
- Clinical progression concerns
- Requests for readmission following withdrawal or dismissal
- Requests for program exceptions or waivers, when permitted by University policy
- Graduation eligibility
- Student appeals referred to the committee in accordance with School of Nursing or University policies

The APG Committee functions in an advisory capacity unless otherwise authorized by University policy. Committee recommendations are made in accordance with established University and School of Nursing policies and procedures.

## **4.9 Readmission**

Students seeking readmission must meet current admission requirements.

## **4.10 Appeals**

The Centofanti School of Nursing is committed to providing students with a fair, timely, and impartial process for resolving academic and program-related concerns. Students may appeal certain academic or program decisions when they believe University or School of Nursing policies have not been appropriately applied or when documented extenuating circumstances exist.

Students are encouraged to first discuss concerns with the individual directly involved (e.g., course or clinical faculty). If the issue cannot be resolved informally, a written appeal may be submitted through the appropriate administrative channels in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

Appeals involving final course grades, academic integrity, student conduct, disability accommodations, discrimination, harassment, or other matters governed by specific University policies will follow the applicable University procedures.

Appeals within the jurisdiction of the School of Nursing may be reviewed by the Admissions, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee, which makes recommendations to the appropriate academic administrator for final action. Students are responsible for submitting appeals within established deadlines and providing all required supporting documentation.

## Chapter 5. Clinical Education

### 5.1 Clinical Placement

Clinical placements are arranged in collaboration with the Program Director, clinical faculty, and approved clinical agencies. Students may not begin clinical experiences until all clinical compliance requirements have been satisfied and an approved preceptor agreement is on file.

The clinical compliance requirements can be found on Exxat under School Requirements – Health Requirements.

### 5.2 Clinical Site Expectations

Graduate nursing students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and comply with all policies, procedures, and requirements of the assigned clinical agency throughout each practicum experience. In addition to adhering to the policies of the Centofanti School of Nursing, students are responsible for becoming familiar with and following all site-specific requirements before and during clinical participation.

Students are expected to:

- Complete all required clinical agency orientation, onboarding, and training before beginning clinical experiences.
- Comply with all clinical agency policies related to patient care, infection prevention, safety, confidentiality, documentation, and professional conduct.
- Follow clinical agency security procedures, including identification badge requirements, access restrictions, and emergency protocols.
- Adhere to the clinical agency's policies regarding parking, visitor access, use of personal belongings, and other administrative requirements.
- Use the electronic medical record (EMR) or other clinical information systems only as authorized and solely for legitimate educational and patient care purposes under the supervision of the approved preceptor. Unauthorized access, misuse, copying, printing, photographing, or disclosure of patient information is strictly prohibited.
- Comply with the Centofanti School of Nursing Dress Code and Identification Policy (Section 5.7) and any additional appearance or identification requirements established by the clinical agency.
- Return any equipment loaned by a clinical site on the student's final day of practicum. Failure to return borrowed equipment will prevent the student from progressing to the next practicum course. For students completing their final practicum, a graduation hold will be placed on the student's account until all loaned equipment has been returned.

### 5.3 Clinical Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled clinical experiences. Attendance is mandatory unless an absence is approved by the clinical faculty. Students are expected to arrive on time, remain for the entire scheduled clinical experience, and actively participate in all assigned patient care activities under the supervision of the approved preceptor.

Students are responsible for completing all required clinical hours and meeting the clinical objectives established for each practicum course. Absences from clinical experiences should be limited to emergencies or unavoidable circumstances. If an absence is necessary, the student must notify both the preceptor and the clinical faculty member as soon as possible and prior to the scheduled clinical experience whenever feasible.

Missed clinical hours must be made up at a time approved by the preceptor and clinical faculty. Repeated absences, tardiness, failure to notify the preceptor or faculty of an absence, or failure to complete required clinical hours may result in clinical remediation, course failure, delayed progression, or dismissal from the program.

Clinical attendance policies established by the clinical agency or practicum site must also be followed. Students are responsible for complying with all site-specific attendance requirements in addition to School of Nursing policies.

**Students may not substitute employment hours for required clinical practicum hours, even if employed at the clinical site.**

### 5.4 Professional Conduct

Graduate nursing students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior consistent with the ethical, legal, and professional standards of advanced nursing practice in all academic, laboratory, simulation, clinical, and professional activities. Students represent Youngstown State University, the Centofanti School of Nursing, and the nursing profession at all times.

Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, accountability, and respect in all academic and clinical settings.
- Comply with the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics, applicable Nurse Practice Acts, University policies, School of Nursing policies, and clinical agency requirements.
- Communicate professionally and respectfully with patients, families, faculty, preceptors, classmates, and members of the healthcare team.
- Practice within the limits of their education and clinical competency and seek guidance whenever patient safety or clinical uncertainty exists.

- Accept responsibility for their learning, professional behavior, and timely completion of academic and clinical requirements.
- Report concerns related to patient safety, professional misconduct, or violations of University, School of Nursing, or clinical agency policies.

Failure to meet professional conduct expectations may result in clinical remediation, removal from the clinical setting, course failure, disciplinary action, or dismissal from the graduate nursing program in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

## **5.5 Work Hours During Clinical Practicum**

Students are responsible for arranging their work schedules to accommodate required clinical hours. Clinical education is a priority during practicum courses, and employment hours may not be substituted for required clinical practicum hours.

## **5.6 Responsibilities**

### **Graduate Nurse Practitioner Student**

Graduate nurse practitioner students are responsible for actively participating in their clinical education and fulfilling all practicum requirements established by the Centofanti School of Nursing, clinical faculty, and affiliated clinical agencies.

Students are responsible for:

- Establishing individualized learning objectives in collaboration with the clinical preceptor and clinical faculty at the beginning of each practicum experience.
- Ensuring that all clinical compliance requirements, affiliation agreements, and preceptor approvals are completed before participating in clinical experiences.
- Accurately documenting patient encounters, clinical hours, and other required practicum records in Exxat or other approved clinical documentation systems.
- Completing all required course assignments, evaluations, logs, and clinical documentation by established deadlines.
- Participating in scheduled conferences, clinical evaluations, site visits, and other required meetings with clinical faculty and preceptors.
- Promptly reporting concerns regarding the clinical learning environment, patient safety, or issues affecting successful completion of clinical requirements to the clinical faculty.
- Complying with all School of Nursing and clinical agency policies related to clinical practice, documentation, professionalism, patient safety, and completion of practicum requirements.

## Responsibilities of the Practicum Preceptor

The practicum preceptor serves as a clinical educator, mentor, and professional role model. In collaboration with clinical faculty, the preceptor provides supervised learning experiences that facilitate the student's development of advanced practice competencies.

Preceptors are responsible for:

- Maintaining current professional licensure, certification, and qualifications appropriate to the student's specialty area.
- Completing all required preceptor documentation and agreements before the clinical experience begins.
- Providing clinical experiences that support achievement of course objectives and program outcomes.
- Supervising the student's clinical activities while promoting safe, evidence-based patient care.
- Providing ongoing guidance, coaching, and constructive feedback regarding clinical knowledge, skills, clinical reasoning, and professional behavior.
- Communicating concerns regarding student performance or professional conduct promptly to the clinical faculty.
- Completing required student evaluations and verifying clinical hours as required by the program.

## Preceptor Qualifications

Approved preceptors include:

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) with a master's or doctoral degree and national certification appropriate to the student's specialty population.
- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) with a master's or doctoral degree.
- Physicians (MD or DO) licensed to practice medicine.
- Master's-prepared Physician Assistants (PAs) licensed in the state where the clinical practicum occurs may serve as preceptors for AGACNP students.
- FNP students may complete up to **150 clinical hours** with an approved Physician Assistant after successful completion of the first practicum course.

## Responsibilities of Clinical Faculty

Clinical faculty are responsible for facilitating high-quality clinical learning experiences and evaluating student achievement of program outcomes. Faculty work collaboratively with students and preceptors to support clinical learning and ensure progression toward advanced practice competence.

Clinical faculty responsibilities include:

- Approving clinical sites and preceptors that meet program and accreditation requirements.
- Collaborating with students and preceptors to establish appropriate clinical learning objectives.
- Maintaining regular communication with students and preceptors throughout each practicum experience.
- Providing guidance, support, and consultation regarding clinical learning and professional development.
- Addressing concerns related to student performance, professionalism, or clinical progression in a timely manner.
- Conducting clinical site visits or virtual evaluations, as required by the program, to assess student performance and achievement of clinical competencies.
- Evaluating student performance using preceptor evaluations, direct observation, clinical documentation, practicum logs, assignments, and other course evaluation methods.
- Assigning the final clinical grade based on the student's successful achievement of course and program outcomes.

## **5.7 Dress Code and Identification**

Graduate nursing students are expected to maintain a professional appearance that reflects the standards of the nursing profession and promotes patient confidence. Students must report to all clinical experiences and program activities appropriately dressed, well-groomed, and in accordance with the dress code requirements of both the Centofanti School of Nursing and the assigned clinical agency.

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the dress code and appearance standards of their assigned clinical site before beginning the practicum experience. When clinical agency policies are more restrictive than those of the School of Nursing, the clinical agency's dress code must be followed.

Students are also expected to maintain professional attire and appearance during all program-related activities, including laboratory experiences, simulation, clinical competency assessments, presentations, and other on-campus or virtual activities as directed by course faculty.

Students must wear the official Youngstown State University nursing identification badge or the identification required by the clinical agency at all times while participating in clinical experiences. Failure to comply with dress code or identification requirements may result in dismissal from the clinical site, an unexcused clinical absence, or other academic consequences.

## 5.8 Exxat Clinical Compliance and Documentation System

Exxat is the official clinical compliance, clinical placement, and documentation management system used by the Centofanti School of Nursing. All graduate nursing students are required to maintain an active Exxat account throughout enrollment in the program.

Students are responsible for using Exxat to:

- Upload and maintain required clinical compliance documentation.
- Track expiration dates of required documents.
- Document clinical hours, patient encounters, and other required practicum activities.
- Submit required clinical documentation by established deadlines.

Clinical compliance requirements, required documentation, and consequences for noncompliance are outlined in **Section 5.9 Clinical Compliance Requirements**.

## 5.9 Clinical Compliance Requirements

Students are responsible for maintaining all clinical compliance requirements throughout enrollment in the graduate nursing program. Compliance requirements are established by the Centofanti School of Nursing and affiliated clinical agencies to ensure the safety of patients, students, faculty, and healthcare personnel.

Failure to maintain current clinical compliance documentation may result in denial of access to clinical sites, inability to register for clinical courses, delayed progression, or removal from the graduate nursing program.

Unless otherwise specified, all required documentation must be submitted to **Exxat** at least **30 days prior to the start of the first clinical practicum** and maintained throughout the program.

### Immunization Requirements

Immunization requirements can be found on Exxat under School Resources under the Health Requirements tab.

### YSU Identification

Students must possess a valid Youngstown State University identification card and any additional identification required by the assigned clinical agency. Identification badges must be worn at all times while participating in clinical experiences in accordance with School of Nursing and clinical agency policies.

To receive your YSU Graduate Nursing ID Badge, students must upload a photo to the Y Card. ID badges will be mailed to students at the address listed in banner during their first didactic

course. If a proper photo ID is not uploaded to the Y Card students will not be able to receive an ID badge and will not be eligible to begin practicum until this requirement is met.

#### **How to upload a picture to the Y Card:**

Instructions on how to submit your photo to the Y Card (Y app) can be found on Exxat under School Resources - Graduate Nursing ID Badge tab.

### **5.10 Student Health, Medical Clearance, and Return to Clinical**

Graduate nursing students are responsible for maintaining their physical and mental health in a manner that supports safe participation in classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical experiences. Students are expected to comply with all health requirements established by the Centofanti School of Nursing and affiliated clinical agencies.

Students who experience a communicable illness or any health condition that may pose a risk to patients, healthcare personnel, classmates, or themselves must not participate in clinical experiences until medically cleared to return. Examples include, but are not limited to, fever, influenza, COVID-19 or other respiratory viral infections, active gastrointestinal illness, undiagnosed rash, conjunctivitis, or other contagious conditions as determined by a healthcare provider or clinical agency.

Students are responsible for promptly notifying both the clinical preceptor and clinical faculty if illness, injury, surgery, hospitalization, or another health condition prevents participation in a scheduled clinical experience. Students must comply with the clinical agency's employee health policies, communicable disease protocols, and return-to-clinical requirements, in addition to School of Nursing policies.

Written medical clearance from an appropriately licensed healthcare provider may be required before a student may return to clinical activities following illness, injury, surgery, hospitalization, or any condition that could affect the student's ability to safely perform essential program functions.

Failure to comply with student health requirements, provide required documentation, or obtain medical clearance when required may result in exclusion from clinical experiences, delayed progression, inability to complete required clinical hours, or other academic consequences in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies

### **5.11 Fitness for Clinical Practice**

Graduate nursing students are expected to report to all classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical experiences physically, mentally, and emotionally capable of safely performing the essential functions of the graduate nursing program. Students must be able to provide safe,



competent, and professional patient care while meeting the Technical Standards of the program.

Students whose physical health, mental health, emotional well-being, fatigue, substance use, medication effects, illness, injury, or other circumstances impair their ability to safely participate in clinical education or provide patient care may be prohibited from participating in clinical activities until they are determined to be fit for clinical practice.

Clinical faculty, preceptors, and clinical agency personnel have the authority to immediately remove a student from the clinical setting whenever there is reasonable concern that the student's condition or behavior may compromise patient safety, the student's safety, or the safe operation of the clinical environment.

Students removed from a clinical experience because of concerns regarding fitness for clinical practice may be required to:

- Undergo evaluation by an appropriately licensed healthcare provider or other qualified professional.
- Provide documentation verifying their ability to safely return to clinical practice.
- Complete remediation, counseling, treatment, skills validation, or other requirements as determined by the Program Director and clinical faculty before resuming clinical activities.

Failure to maintain fitness for clinical practice or to comply with recommendations necessary to ensure safe patient care may result in delayed clinical progression, course failure, or dismissal from the graduate nursing program in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

## 5.12 Technical Standards

Graduate nursing students must be able to perform the essential functions required to participate safely and effectively in classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning experiences and to meet the competencies expected of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). These technical standards are essential to protect patient safety, support student learning, and ensure successful progression through the graduate nursing program.

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

- **Observation:** Accurately observe patients and the clinical environment using visual, auditory, tactile, and other sensory abilities necessary to assess health status, recognize changes in patient condition, and safely perform advanced nursing care.
- **Communication:** Communicate effectively and professionally with patients, families, faculty, preceptors, healthcare providers, and members of the interprofessional healthcare team through verbal, written, and electronic methods.

- **Motor Skills:** Possess sufficient motor function, coordination, strength, and mobility to safely perform physical assessments, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and other essential clinical skills required for advanced nursing practice.
- **Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** Demonstrate the ability to collect, analyze, integrate, and interpret clinical information; apply critical thinking and clinical reasoning; exercise sound judgment; and make safe, timely decisions in a variety of healthcare settings.
- **Behavioral and Emotional Stability:** Demonstrate emotional stability, adaptability, and professional behavior necessary to function effectively in stressful, rapidly changing, and unpredictable healthcare environments while maintaining safe patient care and appropriate interpersonal relationships.
- **Professionalism:** Consistently demonstrate ethical behavior, integrity, accountability, cultural sensitivity, respect for others, and adherence to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics, applicable Nurse Practice Acts, University policies, School of Nursing policies, and clinical agency requirements.

Students are responsible for notifying the University if they require accommodation to meet these technical standards. Requests for accommodation should be made to the **Youngstown State University Office of Accessibility Services**. Reasonable accommodations will be considered in accordance with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable University policies. Accommodation must not fundamentally alter program requirements or compromise patient safety or the essential functions of the graduate nursing program.

Failure to meet the essential technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, may affect a student's ability to participate in clinical education, progress in the program, or meet graduation requirements.

### 5.13 Clinical Progression

Progression through the clinical component of the graduate nursing program requires successful completion of each practicum course and continued demonstration of clinical competence, professional behavior, and compliance with all program and clinical requirements.

Students returning to clinical education following an interruption in enrollment, approved Leave of Absence, illness, injury, surgery, hospitalization, military service, or any other circumstance that may affect clinical competency or the ability to safely perform essential program functions may be required to complete one or more of the following before resuming clinical experiences:

- Provide written medical clearance from an appropriately licensed healthcare provider.
- Demonstrate current clinical competency through skills validation or faculty evaluation.
- Complete individualized remediation.
- Repeat simulation, laboratory, or practicum experiences.

- Repeat previously completed specialty or practicum courses when required because of curriculum changes, extended absence, or inability to demonstrate current competency.
- Meet all current clinical compliance requirements, including certifications, immunizations, background checks, drug screening, and agency onboarding requirements.

Students absent from clinical practicum courses for more than **12 consecutive months (365 days)** must repeat all previously completed practicum courses and associated clinical hours. Previously completed practicum hours will not be applied toward graduation requirements.

Students absent from the graduate nursing program for more than **two years** may be required to repeat previously completed specialty courses or prerequisite coursework before resuming clinical practicum. The specific coursework required will be determined by the Program Director based on the length of absence, curriculum changes, accreditation requirements, and the student's demonstrated competency.

The Centofanti School of Nursing reserves the right to require remediation, competency validation, or additional educational interventions whenever necessary to ensure students possess the knowledge, skills, clinical reasoning, and professional judgment required for safe advanced nursing practice.

---

## 5.14 Clinical Remediation

Students required to complete remediation must successfully demonstrate achievement of the established remediation objectives and competency benchmarks before progressing in the curriculum. Successful completion of remediation does not guarantee progression and is subject to faculty evaluation and program requirements.

## 5.15 Liability Insurance

Professional liability (malpractice) insurance is provided by Youngstown State University for students participating in approved clinical experiences that are required as part of the graduate nursing curriculum. Coverage applies only to activities performed within the scope of approved educational experiences under the supervision of an authorized preceptor and clinical faculty.

Students are responsible for understanding the limitations of this coverage and are expected to comply with all University, School of Nursing, and clinical agency policies while participating in clinical education. A copy of the University's professional liability insurance certificate is available through Exxat and may be provided to clinical agencies upon request.

Professional liability insurance does not extend to employment-related activities or clinical practice performed outside approved University-sponsored educational experiences.

## 5.16 Confidentiality

Students are responsible for protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all patient and institutional information obtained through classroom, simulation, laboratory, and clinical experiences. Confidential information must be handled in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), applicable laws, University policies, School of Nursing policies, and clinical agency requirements.

Students may access confidential information only as necessary to fulfill authorized educational responsibilities. Unauthorized access, discussion, disclosure, copying, photographing, recording, or sharing of confidential information by any means is strictly prohibited. Accessing medical records without a legitimate educational or clinical purpose is prohibited.

Any actual or suspected breach of confidentiality must be reported immediately to the clinical preceptor and clinical faculty. Violations may result in removal from the clinical setting, clinical remediation, course failure, disciplinary action, dismissal from the graduate nursing program, and referral through the University's student conduct or academic integrity processes.

## 5.17 Social Media and Electronic Communication

Students are expected to use social media, email, text messaging, learning management systems, telehealth platforms, and all other forms of electronic communication in a professional manner that protects patient privacy and reflects the standards of the nursing profession.

Students must comply with HIPAA, applicable federal and state privacy laws, University policies, School of Nursing policies, and the policies of affiliated clinical agencies.

Students are prohibited from:

- Posting, transmitting, or sharing confidential, proprietary, or patient-related information through any social media platform or electronic communication, regardless of whether patient identifiers have been removed.
- Photographing, recording, or reproducing patients, patient information, clinical environments, medical records, or clinical activities without prior written authorization from the clinical agency and all appropriate parties.
- Using personal electronic devices for non-clinical purposes while engaged in patient care or other clinical learning activities, except as permitted by the clinical agency or course faculty.
- Representing personal opinions as those of Youngstown State University, the Centofanti School of Nursing, or an affiliated clinical agency without authorization.
- Engaging in online conduct that is discriminatory, harassing, threatening, defamatory, or otherwise inconsistent with the professional standards expected of graduate nursing students.

Students are expected to communicate professionally and respectfully in all electronic interactions with faculty, preceptors, classmates, patients, clinical agency personnel, and members of the healthcare team.

Violations of this policy, including breaches of patient confidentiality or unprofessional electronic communication, may result in disciplinary action, removal from the clinical site, course failure, referral through the University's student conduct process, or dismissal from the graduate nursing program in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

### **5.18 Patient Safety and Unsafe Clinical Practice**

Patient safety is the highest priority during all clinical, laboratory, simulation, and practicum experiences. Graduate nursing students are expected to provide safe, competent, and ethical care within the scope of their education and under the supervision of approved faculty and preceptors. Students are responsible for recognizing the limits of their knowledge and skills and seeking guidance whenever appropriate.

Unsafe clinical practice is defined as any action, omission, clinical judgment, or pattern of behavior that places or has the potential to place a patient, family member, healthcare provider, fellow student, or the student at risk for physical, psychological, or emotional harm.

Unsafe practice includes, but is not limited to:

- Performing procedures or interventions beyond the student's level of education, competency, or authorized scope of practice.
- Failing to recognize or appropriately respond to changes in a patient's condition.
- Demonstrating poor clinical judgment or repeated errors in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, medication management, or documentation.
- Failing to follow established clinical policies, evidence-based practice guidelines, infection prevention standards, or patient safety protocols.
- Breaching patient confidentiality or violating HIPAA or other privacy regulations.
- Demonstrating dishonesty, falsification of clinical documentation, or misrepresentation of clinical hours or patient encounters.
- Exhibiting unprofessional, disruptive, intimidating, or unethical behavior toward patients, families, faculty, preceptors, or members of the healthcare team.
- Practicing while impaired or otherwise unable to safely provide patient care.

Clinical faculty, preceptors, or authorized clinical agency personnel may immediately remove a student from the clinical setting whenever patient safety is compromised or when a student's performance presents an actual or potential risk to patient care. Immediate removal from the clinical setting is a patient safety measure and does not, by itself, constitute disciplinary action.

Following removal from clinical, the student's performance will be reviewed by the course faculty and Program Director. Depending on the nature and severity of the concern, the student

may be required to complete a clinical remediation plan, undergo additional evaluation, repeat clinical experiences, receive a failing grade for the course, or be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies. Serious or repeated incidents of unsafe clinical practice may result in dismissal from the graduate nursing program.

Students have an ethical and professional responsibility to immediately report actual or potential patient safety concerns, medical errors, or unsafe conditions encountered during clinical experiences. **Procedures for reporting clinical incidents are outlined in Section 5.20, Clinical Incident Reporting.**

### **5.19 Clinical Incident Reporting**

Students must immediately report any clinical incident, patient safety event, occupational exposure, or other occurrence that may compromise the safety of a patient, student, faculty member, or healthcare personnel.

Clinical incidents may include, but are not limited to:

- Medication errors or near misses.
- Needlestick or sharps injuries.
- Bloodborne pathogen or other occupational exposures.
- Patient falls or injuries.
- Errors in treatment, procedures, or documentation.
- Breaches of patient confidentiality or privacy.
- Any event that requires completion of a clinical agency incident report.

**Clinical incidents involving unsafe clinical practice are addressed under Section 5.18, Patient Safety and Unsafe Clinical Practice.**

In the event of a clinical incident, students must:

1. Immediately ensure patient safety and seek assistance from the supervising preceptor or appropriate healthcare provider.
2. Promptly notify the clinical preceptor and clinical faculty member.
3. Follow all reporting, documentation, post-exposure, and follow-up procedures required by the clinical agency and the Centofanti School of Nursing.
4. Complete all required agency and University documentation within the designated timeframes.
5. Cooperate fully with any investigation or review of the incident.

Failure to report a clinical incident, comply with required reporting procedures, or intentionally conceal or falsify information related to a clinical incident may constitute professional misconduct and may result in disciplinary action, including clinical remediation, course failure,

or dismissal from the graduate nursing program in accordance with University and School of Nursing policies.

## **Chapter 6 Graduation and Certification**

### **6.1 Graduation Requirements**

Students are responsible for applying for graduation by the deadline established by the College of Graduate Studies.

### **6.2 Advanced Pharmacology Requirement for APRN Licensure**

Students should be aware that state boards of nursing may require Advanced Pharmacology coursework to be completed within a specified time period before applying for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) licensure.

The Ohio Board of Nursing requires that the 45-hour Advanced Pharmacology course be completed within **five (5) years** preceding application for APRN licensure. Students who delay graduation or certification are responsible for ensuring they continue to meet the licensure requirements of the state in which they intend to practice.

### **6.3 National Certification Eligibility**

Graduates of the MSN Nurse Practitioner programs are eligible to apply for national certification examinations appropriate to their population focus after successful completion of all degree requirements.

\*Certification eligibility depends on meeting the requirements of the certifying body. Post masters certificate students may be required to repeat one or all of the 3 P's depending on current NP specialty.

#### **Family Nurse Practitioner**

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

#### **Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**

- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

#### **Nurse Anesthesia**

- NBCRNA

## 6.4 APRN Licensure

Completion of the MSN program does not automatically confer APRN licensure. Graduates must:

- Successfully complete a national certification examination.
- Meet the licensure requirements of the state board of nursing in the state where they intend to practice.
- Complete any additional state-specific requirements for APRN licensure and prescriptive authority.