Policy Title: Grading

Purpose

To delineate grading criteria for the University of Houston, Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing program, including undergraduate and graduate tracks.

Grading System

The grading system below is for all Gessner College of Nursing is based on a letter grade system using A, B, C, D and F. The specific criteria for determining grades and achievement of course requirements are described in both the Undergraduate and Graduate course syllabi. Grades are posted in Canvas as a convenience for students. The official, final course grade is submitted to the registrar's office at the end of the semester.

Grading Scales

90-100 A

80-89 .... B
75-79 C
60-74 .... D
Below 60 .... F
Incomplete................. I
Satisfactory .... S
Unsatisfactory .... U
Course withdrawal...... W

Information on the grading scale is replicated in all course syllabi and consistently applied. Certain courses may be graded as S, U, or I. Such grades will not be considered in computing a grade point average. A grade of incomplete "I" is reported if a student does not complete all the assignments for the course due to reasons beyond their control. To receive an "I", a student must, in collaboration with the course lead faculty, submit a written request for incomplete status prior to the last class day of the course with a date of when the course requirements will be completed. If the student does not complete the course requirements in the time allotted (a maximum of one year), the "I" grade will convert to a "F" grade.

Criteria for Program Good Standing: Graduate Student

Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) over all graduate courses attempted at UH, regardless of whether the courses are counted toward degree requirements. Graduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) on all courses that appear on the student's degree plan, including transferred courses. Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) may result in academic probation or withdrawal from the Graduate program.

A minimum course grade of 80 (B) is required for passing in all Graduate nursing courses. Any grade below a B is considered a failing grade. If a grade below B is earned in any course, the student will be placed on academic probation and will be required to retake the course and any co-requisite course(s) the next time that it is offered. The academic probation will be removed after successful completion of the course. The student may not be allowed to progress in the program until the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade of "B" or higher is earned.

Students must achieve a weighted exam average of 80% to pass the course.

A course grade below 80% in any two (2) courses, or twice in the same course, will no longer be eligible to continue in the nursing program and will be required to withdraw from the program. The Associate Dean will notify students of their academic withdrawal from the Graduate program.

Students in the Graduate programs may withdraw from a maximum of three courses throughout the program. Courses assigned a "W" must be retaken before the student may progress in the Graduate program. Students who meet the criteria for progression may be assessed by the Program Director for overall suitability to continue in the program if appropriate.

Criteria for Program Good Standing: Undergraduate Student

The Undergraduate student is expected to maintain at least a 2.0 (C) grade point average for hours attempted at this institution; the minimum permitted for graduation. Failure to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C) may result in academic probation or withdrawal from the BSN program.

A minimum course grade of 75 (C) is required for passing in all BSN nursing courses. Any grade below a C is considered a failing grade. If a grade below C is earned in any course, the student will be placed on academic probation and will be required to retake the course and any co-requisite course(s) the next time it is offered within the admitted track. The student may not be allowed to progress in the program until the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade of "C" or higher is earned.

Students must achieve a weighted exam average of 75% to pass each course.

A course grade below 75% in any two (2) courses, or twice in the same course, will no longer be eligible to continue in the nursing program and will be required to withdraw from the program. The Track Manager will notify the BSN Director and Associate Dean of the student's academic withdrawal from the program. The Associate Dean will notify the student of their academic withdrawal from the undergraduate program.

Students in the undergraduate program may withdraw from a maximum of three courses throughout the program. Courses assigned a "W" must be retaken before the student may progress in the undergraduate program. Students who meet the criteria for progression may be assessed by the BSN Director for overall suitability to continue in the program if appropriate.

Undergraduate students may earn no more than six (6) 'W' grades across their UH undergraduate career. Once all six are used, students must complete all future enrolled courses for a letter grade. Per

Texas Education Code §51.907, students at Texas public institutions are also limited to six total dropped courses statewide, and drops from other Texas public institutions count toward this limit.

Determination of Grades:

1. When a course includes both didactic and clinical content:
    Students are required to pass both the didactic and clinical/simulation/laboratory section in order to pass the course. Course exams, including the final exam and standardized exams when applicable, must have a weighted average of 75 or higher for Undergraduates, and 80 or higher for Graduates, before the other assignments will be included in the didactic calculation. In the event the student passes the didactic section but fails the clinical/simulation/laboratory section of the course, the student will receive the failing grade earned for the clinical course. If the student passes the clinical/simulation/laboratory section of the course but fails the didactic section (grade less than 75 for Undergraduates, and grade less than 80 for Graduates), the student will receive the earned didactic grade. The didactic grade supersedes the clinical grade even if the clinical grade is passing.

    The student who fails the didactic or clinical/simulation/laboratory section of the course must repeat the course in its entirety. The didactic and clinical/simulation/laboratory sections are inseparable.

2. When didactic and clinical courses are co-requisites:
    Both the didactic course and the clinical course must be passed in order to progress.

3. The student who fails the didactic course or the clinical course must repeat both courses in their entirety. The didactic and clinical/simulation/laboratory courses are inseparable.

4. Course exams, including standardized exams, must have a weighted average of 75 or higher for Undergraduate students and 80 or higher for Graduate students before other assignments will be included in the final course grade calculation. If the weighted exam average is below 75 for Undergraduate students and below 80 for Graduate students, the course grade will be based upon the exam average.

Jeopardy Letters

Students earning a score of less than passing (below 75% for Undergraduate students or below 80% for Graduate students) on major assignments, clinical/simulation/laboratory performance, or exams will receive a jeopardy letter. Students who have a course average below 75 for Undergraduates or below 80 for Graduates at midterm will receive a jeopardy letter. Students who receive jeopardy letters are required to meet with the lead course faculty to discuss a remediation plan.

Skill Check-Offs

Skill check-offs are defined by the Gessner College of Nursing as competent demonstration of a nursing skill(s) using a pre-established checklist. If a student fails the first check-off attempt, they will be provided written feedback on their performance, and will be required to complete two (2) hours of lab

remediation during open lab time. Students are responsible for attending open lab prior to the second check off. If a student fails the second check-off attempt, they will be counseled by the lead faculty, receive a jeopardy letter, will be required to complete two (2) additional hours of lab remediation during open lab time, and will write a 2-page reflection paper in APA format outlining their areas of deficiency and corresponding action plan for success on the third check-off. Students are responsible for attending open lab prior to the third check off. The paper is to be presented to the faculty prior to the start of the third check-off attempt. Each undergraduate nursing student must pass skill check-offs by the third attempt as outlined in the course syllabus. If a student fails the third check-off attempt, the student must either withdraw from the course and co-requisite course (if still within the university course withdrawal time frame) or the student will receive the earned grade of a D.

Simulation Competencies

Simulation competencies are defined by the Gessner College of Nursing as competencies that require verification according to the following: in a simulated environment, students apply and synthesize multiple concepts of a complex scenario to care for high-fidelity mannequins or standardized patients. Simulation competencies include but are not limited to head-to-toe assessments, and summative high-fidelity scenarios. Each undergraduate nursing student must pass simulation competencies within a maximum of two (2) attempts. If a student fails the first simulation competency, they will be counseled by the lead faculty, and will be required to complete two (2) hours of lab remediation during open lab time and receive a jeopardy letter. Students are responsible for attending open lab prior to the second attempt. If a student is not successful on the first attempt, and is successful on the second attempt, the maximum grade earned will be a 75 on the second attempt If a student fails to earn a 75% within two attempts, the student must either withdraw from the course and co-requisite course (if still within the university course withdrawal time frame) or the student will receive the earned grade of a D.

Dosage Calculation Exams

The purpose of dosage calculation exams is to prepare the student to safely administer medications under the supervision of a licensed nurse or faculty member. Students may not administer medications in the clinical setting if they are unable to verify patient safety through calculating dosages via the exam. If students cannot administer medications because they cannot pass the exam, they will not meet the requirements of the clinical course.

A minimum passing score of 90 on the dosage calculation exam is required for successful completion of all clinical courses, except high acuity clinical, within two attempts. If a student fails to earn a 90% within two attempts, the student must either withdraw from the course (if still within the university course withdrawal time frame) or the student will receive the earned grade of a D.

A minimum passing score of 100 on the dosage calculation exam is required for successful completion of the final high acuity clinical course within two attempts. If a student fails to earn a 100% within two attempts, the student must either withdraw from the course (if still within the university course withdrawal time frame) or the student will receive the earned grade of a D.

Students who do not obtain the minimum passing score on the dosage calculation exam for a clinical course must withdraw immediately from the course and co-requisite course with a grade of "W."

If a student misses an attempt to take any of the dosage calculation exams due to an unexcused absence, the grade for that exam attempt will be a zero.

Lippincott Clinical Judgement Readiness Examination (CJRE)

The purpose of the Clinical Judgement Readiness Examination (CJRE) is to prepare the student for success on the professional licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). All students will go through a series of exams, remediation, content and live review as course requirements.

In the 2DBSN Track and Traditional BSN Track, students will take the Clinical Judgement Readiness Examination, developed by Lippincott Wolters-Kluwer, two times in the high acuity clinical course. These exams are designated as CJRE-1 and CJRE-2. The grades earned on the two exams will be averaged together for a percentage of the overall course grade.

After each exam all students are required to complete the assigned Lippincott Wolters-Kluwer remediation within 7 days to receive credit for the exam. Failure to complete the remediation within the seven-day timeframe will result in a score of 0 for each of the assessments where the remediation was not completed.

If after the CJRE-1, the student does not obtain a 84% or higher, the student will be required to attend additional weekly two-hour remediation classes with the Gessner College of Nursing Success Specialist.

All students will take the CJRE-2, which is held at the end of the semester. All students must complete the Lippincott Wolters-Kluwer remediation within the seven-day timeframe or receive a grade of 0.

All students are required to attend the mandatory Lippincott Wolters-Kluwer Live Review course the week following final exams. The cost of the Lippincott Wolters-Kluwer Live Review is covered in the student's fee package and will not be an additional cost.

ATI RN Comprehensive Assessment

The purpose of the ATI RN Comprehensive Assessment is to prepare the student for success on the professional licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). All students will go through a series of exams, remediation, content and live review as course requirements.

In the 2DBSN Track and Traditional BSN Track, students will take the RN Comprehensive Assessment, administered by ATI, two times in the high acuity clinical course. The grades earned on the two exams will be averaged together for a percentage of the overall course grade.

After each exam all students are required to complete the assigned ATI remediation within 7 days to receive credit for the exam. Failure to complete the ATI remediation within the seven-day timeframe will result in a score of 0 for each of the comprehensive assessments where the remediation was not completed.

After the first ATI Comprehensive Assessment, all students are required to actively participate in the ATI Capstone Review with weekly proctored exams covering specific content to further prepare the student for licensure. In addition, if after the first ATI Comprehensive Assessment, the student does not obtain a

93% or higher, the student will be required to attend additional weekly two-hour remediation classes with the Gessner College of Nursing Success Specialist

All students will take the second ATI Comprehensive Assessment which is held at the end of the semester. All students must complete the ATI remediation within the seven-day timeframe or receive a grade of 0.

All students are required to attend the mandatory ATI Live Review course the week following final exams. The cost of the ATI Live Review is covered in the student's ATI fee package and will not be an additional cost.

Posting of Grades

Assignment and exam grades are posted in Canvas as a convenience for students. The official, final course grade is submitted to the registrar's office at the end of the semester.

Approved by Gessner College of Nursing Faculty Council: 12/12/2025

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 12/16/2025