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		Approval Date:	08/18/2020
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POLICY TITLE: GRADING

Purpose

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

Grading System

The grading system for all programs in the 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.

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 course may be designated as “pass” or “fail” while others are designated by a letter grade. A grade of “pass” is equivalent to a letter grade of “B”.

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. The “I” is valid for one semester following the course. To receive an “I”, a student must submit a written request for incomplete status to the lead faculty 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

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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 student who receives two (2) grades below a B in any courses, or two (2) grades below "B" 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 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 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 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 "C" or higher is earned.

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

A student who earns two (2) grades below a C in any two courses, or two (2) grades below C 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 Director of BSN Program and the 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

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undergraduate 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.

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 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.

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.
3. 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 encouraged to meet with the lead faculty of the course to discuss a remediation plan. The discussion should be documented on a counseling form with the remediation plan outlined, signed by both faculty and student with a copy given to the student.

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Skill Check-Offs

Skill check-offs are defined by the CON 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 counseled by the lead faculty, and will be required to complete two (2) hours of lab remediation during open lab time. 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. The paper is to be presented to the faculty prior to the start of the third check-off attempt, and students will not be permitted to check-off without a completed paper and the four (4) total hours of lab remediation.** 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 (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 CON 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. 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. Unsuccessful students who do not have an average score of 75 or higher will earn a failing grade (D).

Posting of Grades

Assignment and exam grades are posted in Blackboard (Bb) 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 CON Faculty Council: 08/18/2020

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 08/18/2020