

GRADING POLICY

Subject: Grading Policy	Effective Date: 8/2006
Scope: All Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Graduate Department	Date Reviewed/Revised: 12/2025
Responsible Office: Department of Graduate Studies	Next Scheduled Review Date: 12/2027
	Responsible Executive: Dean, Cizik School of Nursing

I. POLICY AND GENERAL STATEMENT

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program maintains rigorous academic standards to ensure student competence, progression, and program integrity. This grading policy establishes the grading scale, academic performance expectations, and consequences for unsatisfactory academic performance. The policy applies to all DNP students unless otherwise specified and supports compliance with university, accreditation, and professional nursing education standards.

II. DEFINITIONS

Grade Point Average (GPA): The cumulative average of grades earned in coursework, calculated on a 4.0 scale.

Academic Probation: A status assigned to a student whose cumulative GPA falls below the required minimum or who earns a grade below “B” in a course.

Failing Grade: Any course grade below “B,” including C, D, F, or WF, or a failing grade in a Pass/Fail course.

Incomplete (“I”): A temporary grade assigned when course requirements are not completed due to unavoidable circumstances and approved by the course instructor.

Withdrawal (“W” / “WF”): A grade assigned when a student withdraws from a course after the add/drop deadline in accordance with Registrar timelines.

Audit: Enrollment in a course for the purpose of completing required instructional or clinical components without receiving academic credit or a letter grade. Audited courses do not count toward degree credit but are required to fulfill program progression or remediation requirements as specified by the DNP Program.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Grading System and Academic Standards

1. The DNP Program uses a letter grading system consisting of A, B, C, D, and F. Criteria for grading are outlined in individual course syllabi.
 - 90–100 = A
 - 80–89 = B
 - 70–79 = C
 - 60–69 = D
 - Below 60 = F
2. Certain courses are designated Pass/Fail and require a passing grade.
3. DNP students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B).

B. Academic Progression, Probation, and Dismissal

1. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation and must raise the GPA to 3.0 or higher during the next semester of enrollment.
2. Any grade below “B” (C, D, F, or WF) is considered a failing grade and results in academic probation. The student must repeat the course. Each course can only be repeated one time.
3. A student who earns two grades below “B” in any two courses, whether in the same or different semesters, will be academically withdrawn from the DNP Program.
4. The original grade remains on the student’s academic record; the repeated course grade is used to calculate the cumulative GPA.

C. Incomplete, Withdrawal, and Course Repetition

1. An “I” (Incomplete) grade may be assigned when a student is unable to complete course requirements due to unavoidable circumstances.
 - a. The “I” is valid for one semester following the course.
 - b. The student must request an incomplete from the instructor before the last class day.
 - c. Failure to complete coursework by the end of the following semester will result in conversion of the “I” to an “F.”
2. A “W” grade may be assigned when a student withdraws from a course after the add/drop deadline and by the Registrar’s published withdrawal deadline.
 - a. A “W” is assigned if the student is passing at the time of withdrawal.
 - b. A “WF” is assigned if the student is not passing at the time of withdrawal.
3. If a student fails a didactic course with a corresponding clinical course, the student must repeat the didactic course and repeat the corresponding clinical course by registering to audit, regardless of the grade previously earned.
 - a. If a student fails a clinical course with a corresponding didactic course, the clinical course must be repeated and the didactic course must be repeated by audit.
 - b. This requirement does not apply to courses with laboratory components.
4. This policy does not apply to BSN–DNP Nurse Anesthesia students.

IV. CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
DNP Program Director		https://nursing.uth.edu/about/administration

