Graduate Nursing Program **Student Handbook 2026 - 2027**

Briar Cliff UNIVERSITY

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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this handbook, but Briar Cliff University reserves the right to make changes without prior notice. In its unfettered discretion, Briar Cliff University also reserves the right to change the regulations governing admissions, tuition, fees, or other expenses; to cancel programs or courses due to low enrollment, budget constraints, or curricular changes; or to alter any regulations affecting the student body. The university reserves the right to make other changes in policies and procedures at any time they are considered to be desirable or necessary. The university also reserves the right to designate the effective dates of any such changes. This handbook is not to be construed as a contract between the student and the university. The listed tuition and fees are for the 2026-2027 academic year. Briar Cliff University will provide equal opportunity in compliance with the law and will not discriminate for any reason prohibited by the law.

Nursing Organizational Chart



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Introduction

Welcome Students,

Briar Cliff University has provided excellence in nursing education for the Siouxland community for over 40 years. As a graduate student in the Department of Nursing Program, you will be preparing to be active, effective participants in future models of health care in a rapidly changing environment. Your role as an advanced practice nurse will integrate knowledge in nursing theory, research, and practice to improve the quality of patient care as well as health delivery systems.

Our goal in the nursing graduate programs at Briar Cliff is to create a learning community where excellence takes place in a climate of caring. The University's and Department's missions and values guide us in providing the ideal community in which learning takes place. Each of you can help us create an exciting campus community through your contributions.

Please take the time to read this handbook and become familiar with the policies and program requirements. This information will assist you in meeting the requirements for graduation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes on your academic efforts,

Sandra Scholten, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-C
Graduate Program Director
Assistant Professor of Nursing

The University: Past and Present

HISTORY

In 1929, only briar patches covered a 175-foot hill located on the western outskirts of Sioux City, Iowa. But two people —Sister Mary Dominica Wieneke, major superior of the Sisters of St. Francis, and the Most Rev. Edmond Heelan, bishop of the Sioux City Diocese—had a vision. They saw that hill crowned with a Catholic college for women.

Sister Dominica and Bishop Heelan met on March 9, 1929, with members of the Sioux City business community, who committed themselves to raising $25,000 to support establishment of the college in Sioux City.

After this showing of community support, significant events followed in rapid succession. On September 18, 1930, the college, named Briar Cliff after the hill on which it is located, was dedicated. Four days later, 25 women started classes in Heelan Hall, the only building on campus.

In 1937, the college's two-year education program was expanded to four years. In 1945, BCU started their BA in nursing. Fifty-five men were admitted to the college in 1965, and coeducation was formalized in 1966 with the admission of 150 full-time male students. The innovative Weekend College program started in the fall of 1979. The spring of 1980 saw the re-establishment of a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. Master's programs were implemented in the summer of 2001, and the college officially became a University on June 1, 2001. The first online courses were offered to students in 2006, as part of the degree completion program. The University's first doctoral degree, a Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner (DNP) program, was introduced in 2013. In 2019, we initiated the psychiatric mental health track for nurse practitioners.

Briar Cliff's academic growth required an expanding physical plant throughout the years. As time passed, more buildings have appeared on the briar-covered hill: a four-story addition to Heelan Hall in 1948; the library and our Lady of Grace Chapel in 1959; Alverno Hall, a women's residence, in 1964; a gymnasium in 1966; Toller Hall, a men's residence, in 1967; Noonan Hall in 1968; Newman Flanagan Center in 1982; the Baxter-DiGiovanni Living/ Learning Center in 1988. The Bishop Mueller Library was renovated in 1993, the Stark Student Center and the St. Francis Center were dedicated in fall 2000, the McCoy-Arnold Center in 2004, and the Heelan Hall atrium/renovation in 2013, and acquisition of the Mayfair Center in 2015.

LOCATION

Briar Cliff University is located at the edge of urban development but is just minutes from downtown Sioux City (tri-state metro population: 125,000). Located where the states of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota meet, Sioux City is connected with other metropolitan areas by Interstate Highway 29 and the Sioux Gateway Airport and is about an hour away by air from Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, and Denver.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Briar Cliff confers the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. The academic year consists of two 16-week semesters and a 12- week summer session.

ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

Briar Cliff University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

The Master's degree program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and Post-graduate APRN certificate program at Briar Cliff University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org).

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, post-graduate APRN certificate program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) are fully approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing and meet the educational requirements for Iowa Licensure. The Iowa Board of Nursing can be contacted at the following address:

Iowa Board of Nursing
RiverPoint Business Park
400 SW 8th Street, Suite B
Des Moines Iowa 50309-4685

Tel: 515-281-3255
Fax: 515-281-4825
www.state.ia.us/nursing

CERTIFICATION

Students that successfully complete our MSN/Post-Graduate APRN are eligible to sit for the following exams:

AANP or ANCC

STATE AUTHORIZATION

Briar Cliff is a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA) which allows us to provide distance learning programs (both online and in the form of supervised field experiences) and coursework to residents of states other than Iowa. NC-SARA membership, however, does not grant reciprocity or exempt us from state professional licensing requirements. As a result, licensing requirements in Iowa may not be recognized as sufficient to obtain a license in any other state.

Briar Cliff University Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Briar Cliff University is a community committed to higher education within a liberal arts and Catholic perspective. In the Franciscan tradition of service, caring, and openness to all, Briar Cliff emphasizes quality education for its students combining a broad intellectual background with career development. The University challenges its members to grow in self-awareness and in their relationships to others and to God.

Vision

The lifelong learning place preparing ethical world changers.

Values

These values are not just the values of the Franciscan order that founded Briar Cliff University over 90 years ago, they are the foundation of everything we do and believe here at Briar Cliff University. We ensure that every single academic program and activity is centered on these ideals to help instill these Franciscan values in our community.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

A Briar Cliff University graduate will be a person who –

- *Critically examines* knowledge as expressed in the liberal arts tradition;
- *Mindfully contemplates* Franciscan values and their application to the self, others, and the realities of present-day life;
- *Skillfully communicates* in multiple modes and platforms for a diverse, global audience;
- *Creatively thinks and problem-solves*; and
- *Ethically leads* in purposeful, loving service to creation.

Department of Nursing Mission Statement

The Mission of the Department of Nursing at Briar Cliff University is to educate bachelor and graduate prepared nurses to promote health, healing, and hope of persons, through advocating for social justice within the community.

Foundational to this mission is organic integration of faith, learning, and service.

The vision of the Department of Nursing at Briar Cliff University is to:

- Fosters holistic personal and professional development through life-long learning.
- Prepare nurses who engage in reflective practice related to health and quality of life in a variety of health care settings.
- Develop nurses who participate in ethical decision making focusing on health equity and improving quality of life.
- Provide a foundation for critical thinking and for the development, integration, and evaluation of new or expanded knowledge into practice.
- Prepare nursing leaders and mentors for a rapidly changing healthcare system.
- Enhance collaborative partnerships with other health care, educational, faith-based, and social service providers and the public at large.

Graduate Programs in Nursing

Briar Cliff University offers a Master of Science in Nursing that began in Fall 2004. The Master of Science in Nursing [MSN] program, which is consistent with the mission of Briar Cliff University, is designed for baccalaureate-prepared nurses who are interested in serving as family nurse practitioners, adult/gerontology nurse practitioners, or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners. Additionally, Briar Cliff University offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice, to educate masters prepared nurses to serve in the role of Nurse Practitioner.

Briar Cliff University also offers the post-graduate APRN certificate with the population foci of family nurse practitioner, adult/gerontology nurse practitioner, or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. Personal and professional growth and development within the programs are guided by Christian principles within a Catholic Franciscan framework. Graduate level scholarly inquiry based on theoretically and clinically directed research provides the foundation for fulfillment of the competencies of advanced practice nursing and exists within an educational milieu that fosters innovation and experimentation.

Purpose of the Graduate Programs

The global purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing, post-graduate APRN certificate, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs is to prepare professional nurse leaders competent in fulfilling advanced practice nursing roles as nurse practitioners, while working within complex health care and educational systems and a rapidly changing society. Opportunities to enhance ongoing personal and professional growth and development are guided by Christian principles within a Catholic Franciscan framework. Graduate level scholarly inquiry based on theoretically and clinically directed research provides the foundation for fulfillment of the core competencies of advanced practice nursing and exists within an educational milieu that fosters innovation and experimentation. Interaction with faculty, student colleagues, mentors, preceptors, and other health-related professionals empower the advanced practice nurse as an adult learner to meet the expectations of this role. The MSN, post-graduate certificate, and DNP programs provide a solid foundation for continued learning through personal study and/or doctoral education. The programs purposes reflect the development/refinement of values and ethics, critical thinking, and competencies that are foundational attributes required to attain the MSN, post-graduate APRN certificate, and/or DNP Program Outcomes.

The Briar Cliff University Master of Science in Nursing, post-graduate APRN certificate, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs seek to prepare professional nurse leaders who serve their communities by:

- continued personal and professional growth and development including post-graduate education in nursing.
- advanced practice nursing roles as nurse practitioners, integrating cooperative and collaborative practice with physicians, nurse practitioners, other health care providers, and professionals, individuals, and students.
- leadership within health care and educational systems.
- knowledge development in nursing, based on theoretically and/or clinically directed research.
- working towards decreasing health disparities.
- promotion of social justice within a Catholic Franciscan Framework.

The Graduate Nursing Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the Department of Nursing arises from the mission, philosophy, and purposes of Briar Cliff University, the Department's mission, the characteristics of graduate education, and the characteristics of graduate nursing education. The philosophy articulates the faculty's beliefs about individuals, health, the environment, nursing, nursing education, and advanced practice and is internally consistent with the department's philosophy for the baccalaureate nursing education program.

The Department of Nursing, as an integral part of the University community, participates in providing an environment in which personal development can occur. Personal development is inherent in the development of the professional who participates through service in meeting society's needs.

Participation in the University Christian Community within the Catholic Franciscan tradition offers an opportunity for faculty and students to grow both personally and professionally. The total educational experience within the University provides an opportunity to enhance one's own spiritual life and to access one's own convictions and involvement in social, political, cultural, and ethical issues as a person develops the professional role in nursing. The educational experience is enriched by frequent and meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration.

Graduate level nursing inquiry reflects a synthesis of nursing science and nursing arts and thus is based on theoretically and clinically directed research. This synthesis provides the foundation for fulfillment of the core competencies of advanced practice nursing. Graduate nursing education exists within an educational milieu that honors ongoing personal and professional growth and development, fosters innovation, creativity, and experimentation, and is guided by Christian principles within a Catholic Franciscan framework. Collaborative relationships with faculty, student colleagues, individuals (clients), mentors, preceptors, community partners, and other health-related professionals empower the advanced practice nurse as an adult learner to meet the expectations of this role.

The Master of Science in Nursing, post-graduate APRN certificate, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs are designed to prepare professional nurse leaders competent in fulfilling emerging and expanding advanced practice nursing roles or as nurse practitioners, while working within complex health care and educational systems and a rapidly changing society. These roles include the advanced practice dimensions of researcher, advocate, clinician, consultant, and collaborator. These programs provide a solid foundation for scientific and clinical leadership in nursing, continued learning through personal study and/or doctoral education, and advocacy for the health of the public. The program purposes reflect the refinement of values and ethics, critical thinking, and advanced practice competencies that are foundational attributes required to attain the MSN, post-graduate APRN certificate program, and/or DNP Program Outcomes and Student Learning Outcomes.

Ethical Principles

In establishing the following ethical policies, the faculty of the Department of Nursing are committed to belief in the dignity, worth, and potential of each student and recognize each person's rights and responsibilities:

1. Non-nurses, LPNs, and RNs seeking information regarding nursing education are given information on all avenues of nursing education open to them.

2. Accurate and objective information on program requirements and accreditation status is disseminated in print as well as verbally to interested individuals, groups, and the public at large.

3. No qualified person is denied admission to the nursing major because of age, race, religion, gender, marital status, or disabling condition (unless such disability would prevent the provision of safe care).

4. Students who meet the admission criteria as published and who complete the admission process as published may be admitted to the major. The maximum number admitted is evaluated annually based on the resources of the Department and available clinical experiences.

5. Students have input into curriculum content, policies, and evaluation as well as course scheduling within reasonable limitations imposed by their knowledge of the curriculum process and the resources of the program.

6. Students who are in danger of receiving less than a C in any nursing term course are so advised following papers, tests, or other evaluative methods. In Independent Research courses, students will be notified if they are not showing progress toward the completion of the work required.

7. An opportunity for interview with the chairperson of the department is provided any student who is unable to progress or is dismissed from the major because of unsatisfactory academic performance.

8. Student records are confidential. Students have access to their own records.

9. All courses in the program of studies are planned to insure comparable experiences for all students.

10. The policies regarding admission, progression, and graduation are available to students.

11. Degree candidates must meet the graduation requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of graduation or of either of the previous two catalogs, provided that the student was enrolled under the chosen catalog. 'Was enrolled' will include enrollment in an institution with which Briar Cliff has a joint admission articulation agreement. Briar Cliff University reserves the right to make changes in the curricula. However, any time a change is made either in courses or program offerings, appendices to the previous two catalogs will be available reflecting alternatives to programs or courses which have undergone significant changes. Students are ultimately responsible for meeting the catalog requirements for which they are eligible.

12. A grievance procedure is established for conflicts that cannot be resolved within the department.

American Nurses Association
Code of Ethics for Nurses

The nurse practices compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

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Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework utilized by the faculty of the Department of Nursing is based upon the Mission and Philosophy of the Department of Nursing and the mission statement of Briar Cliff University. The Briar Cliff University Department of Nursing utilizes an eclectic approach as a framework for the curriculum. The advanced practice nurse approaches the investigation of health problems systematically, incorporating nursing theory, new knowledge gained through formal research and through evaluation of one's own practice experience, and knowledge from other disciplines. The major concepts utilized are nursing, health, client, and environment. In addition, graduate level nursing education prepares nurse leaders in the roles of nurse practitioners.

Nursing:

- ❖ is defined as a discipline with a unique body of knowledge that helps inform nurses and others of health and quality of life.
- ❖ exists as an art and as a science. The art of nursing involves the nurse being present with others. The science of nursing involves the acquisition of discipline specific skills and knowledge including the theoretical knowledge of nursing. Living the art and science of nursing involves presence and honoring the perspective of others.
- ❖ is a discipline that is holistic in its concern for humanity.
- ❖ is being, knowing, and acting with caring compassion.
- ❖ recognizes cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity.

Health:

- ❖ is a state of being and becoming.
- ❖ is an inherent right.
- ❖ is an individually chosen value.

Individual:

- ❖ is a person, family, group, or community and is viewed holistically.
- ❖ is a dynamic composite of physiological, psychological, developmental, sociocultural, spiritual, and ethical dimensions.
- ❖ is a unique being who is self-directed, interactive, and free to choose within situations.
- ❖ is indivisible from the environment.
- ❖ is illimitable.

Environment:

- ❖ is all factors interacting with the individual.
- ❖ is indivisible from the individual.
- ❖ is ever-changing.
- ❖ is illimitable.

Graduate level nursing education:

- ❖ reflects a synthesis of nursing science and nursing arts and thus is based on theoretically and clinically directed research.
- ❖ provides the foundation for fulfillment of the core competencies of advanced practice nursing and nursing education.
- ❖ exists within an educational milieu that honors ongoing personal and professional growth and development, fosters innovation, creativity, and experimentation, and is guided by Christian principles within a Catholic Franciscan framework.
- ❖ promotes collaborative relationships with faculty, students, colleagues, individuals (clients), mentors, preceptors, community partners, and other health-related professionals.
- ❖ empowers the advanced practice nurse as an adult learner to meet the expectations of this role.

- ❖ uses the nursing process to carry out the advanced practice dimensions of researcher, advocate, clinician, consultant, and collaborator in various settings where individuals are found.
- ❖ is designed to prepare professional nurse leaders in fulfilling emerging and expanding advanced practice nursing roles or as nurse practitioners, while working within complex health care and educational systems and a rapidly changing society.
- ❖ provides a solid foundation for scientific and clinical leadership in nursing, continued learning through personal study and/or doctoral education, and advocacy for the health of the public.
- ❖ reflects the refinement of values and ethics, critical thinking, and advanced practice competencies that are foundational attributes required to attain the MSN/ DNP Student Learning Outcomes and Program Outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes
Essential Functions of a Briar Cliff Graduate Nursing Student

Issue	Description	Standard
Communication	Speech, reading, writing	Effective use of English language. Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction in verbal, nonverbal, and written form. Comprehension & accurate recall of verbal & written communication.
Interpersonal	Ability to relate to others	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to effectively interact with individuals, families, & groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural & intellectual backgrounds.
Behavioral	Emotional & mental stability	Handles multiple priorities, independent discretion/decision making, makes decisions under pressure, manages anger/fear/hostility, manages stress appropriately, works alone effectively, works in close proximity to others and/or in a distracting environment, works with others effectively.
Critical Thinking	Ability to problem solve	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment
Information Technology	Ability to use electronic resources and clinical	Electronic information seeking, interpretation and application for clinical practice for clinical care.
Reliable punctuality	Ability to attend to timeliness	Self-management to consistently do work within the defined time expectation
Hearing	Use of auditory sense	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor & assess health needs. Talk/hear (communicate, detect, converse with, discern, convey, express oneself, exchange information)
Visual	Use of sight	Visual ability sufficient for observation & assessment necessary in nursing care. See (detect, determine, perceive, identify, recognize, judge, observe inspect, estimate, assess)
Tactile	Use of touch	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. Be able to use hands/fingers to handle or feel (operate, activate, use, prepare, inspect, place, detect, position)
Mobility	Physical ability,	Physical abilities & stamina sufficient to move from room to room quickly & maneuver in small

	strength, stamina	places, complete 8–12-hour shift. Be able to stand, walk, climb, balance, bend/stoop/kneel, squat/crouch/crawl, reach/twist, and push/pull. Exerting up to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 20 pounds of force frequently, and/or up to 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects.
Motor Skills	Physical ability, coordination, dexterity	Gross & fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe & effective nursing care.

Application Process to the Graduate Nursing Programs

The Office of Admissions administers the application process for the Department of Nursing. The Department of Nursing graduate faculty determines eligibility and acceptance for the program. When the Office of Admissions has received all required application documents, the file is submitted to the Graduate Nursing Program Director who reviews the file with the graduate faculty. Applications are accepted throughout the year and reviewed as they are received.

MSN Program

Before a decision is made regarding admission to the MSN program, the following must be received by the Office of Admissions:

- One copy of the formal **application for admission**.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on a 4-point scale) from the undergraduate program from which they received their bachelor's degree in nursing.
- An official transcript from all prior undergraduate and graduate study documenting a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE, CNEA or ACEN accredited program, with an upper division major in nursing including the following courses:
    - Nursing Research
    - Statistics
- Evidence of a minimum of 2000 hours of clinical nursing practice as a registered nurse within the two years prior to enrollment in the first nursing specialty course. Employment must be verified by the employer.
- Curriculum vita or resume
- Demonstrate logical thinking and writing skills in the preparation of a goal statement. This statement must:
    - Include the applicant's short-term and long-term professional goals in nursing (maximum 250 words)
    - Include the applicant's professional leadership and work experience in relation to practice setting, client population served, number of years of experience, and how the experiences prepared he/she for graduate education (Maximum 250 words)
    - Include areas of inquiry where the applicant would like to pursue in the graduate studies (maximum 100 words)
    - Signature of the applicant and date the statement was written.
- Evidence of Licensure as an RN in Iowa or a state participating in the licensure compact prior to enrollment in the first graduate nursing core course.

- Computer proficiency in email, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Access to and ability to utilize a functional webcam and microphone are required for the application process and online course participation.
- One letter of reference/recommendation from an individual within the profession.
- Submission of a recorded interview.

***A non-refundable $250.00 matriculation fee** will be required to hold the applicant's place in the cohort. This fee is not due until after the applicant is accepted to the program and will be applied to the first semester tuition.

Post-graduate APRN Certificate Program

Before a decision is made regarding admission to the MSN program, the following must be received by the Office of Admissions:

- One copy of the formal application for admission.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on a 4-point scale) from the undergraduate program from which they received their bachelor's degree in nursing.
- An official transcript from all prior undergraduate and graduate study documenting a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE, CNEA or ACEN accredited program.
- Advanced Pathophysiology, Advanced Pharmacology, and Advanced Physical Assessment must have been completed within the past 6 years (timeframe may be waived for practicing nurse practitioners). Advanced Physical Assessment requires evidence of laboratory content. *The 3Ps requirement is waived for practicing nurse practitioners.
- Current resume and/or curriculum vitae
- Evidence of a minimum of 2000 hours of clinical nursing practice as a registered nurse within the two years prior to enrollment in the first nursing specialty course. Employment must be verified by the employer.
- Demonstrate logical thinking and writing skills in the preparation of a goal statement. This statement must:
    - Include the applicant's short-term and long-term professional goals in nursing (maximum 250 words)
    - Include the applicant's professional leadership and work experience in relation to practice setting, client population served, number of years of experience, and how the experiences prepared him/her for graduate education (Maximum 250 words)
    - Include areas of inquiry where the applicant would like to pursue in the graduate studies (maximum 100 words)
    - Signature of the applicant and date the statement was written.
- Evidence of Licensure as an RN and ARNP in Iowa or a state participating in the licensure compact prior to enrollment in the first graduate nursing core course.
- Evidence of Board Certification as ARNP.
- Computer proficiency in email, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Access to and ability to utilize a functional webcam and microphone are required for the application process and online course participation.
- One letter of reference/recommendation from an individual within the profession.

***A non-refundable $250.00 matriculation fee** will be required to hold the applicant's place in the cohort. This fee is not due until after the applicant is accepted to the program and will be applied to the first semester tuition.

DNP Program

Before a decision is made regarding admission to the DNP program, the following must be received by the Office of Admissions:

- One copy of the formal application for admission.
- An official transcript from all prior undergraduate and graduate study documenting a baccalaureate and master's degrees from accredited programs.
- Curriculum vita or resume.
- Demonstrate logical thinking and writing skills in the preparation of a goal statement. This statement must:
    - Include the applicant's short-term and long-term professional goals in nursing (maximum 250 words)
    - Include the applicant's professional leadership and work experience in relation to practice setting, client population served, number of years of experience, and how the experiences prepared he/she for graduate education (maximum 250 words)
    - Include areas of inquiry where the applicant would like to pursue in the graduate studies (maximum 100 words)
    - For DNP students, the statement should include a desired potential topic for the Practice Innovation Project.
    - Signature of the applicant and date the statement was written.
- Submit evidence of National Certification as a nurse practitioner and State Licensure as an APRN.
- Submit verification of post-Baccalaureate clinical practice hours from your MSN program.
- Computer proficiency in email, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Access to and ability to utilize a functional webcam and microphone are required for the application process and online course participation.
- One letter of reference/recommendation from an individual within the profession.

***A non-refundable $250.00 matriculation fee** will be required to hold the applicant's place in the cohort. This fee is not due until after the applicant is accepted to the program and will be applied to the first semester tuition.

TRANSFERABLE CREDITS

Nine credit hours of graduate course work with a minimum grade of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in each course may be transferred into the graduate program from another accredited institution if they meet the requirements of the program and have been completed within six years of acceptance into the program.

Courses taken from a non-accredited institution will not be accepted.

ADMISSION PROCESS

1. Once an applicant's application folder is complete, the file will be transferred to the office of the Graduate Program Director.
2. The Graduate Program Director, along with the graduate nursing faculty, will evaluate the application.
3. Applicants who meet the admission criteria and who complete the admission process will be approved for the graduate program and admitted to the program on a space available basis.

The maximum number admitted is evaluated annually based on the resources of the Department and available clinical experiences.

CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

If the applicant does not meet the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements, but meets all other requirements, the applicant may be conditionally approved for admission to the program.

In order to continue enrollment, the student must achieve a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the first semester of courses. The student will then change to regular acceptance status and be allowed to register for additional courses in the program.

Notification of admission to the graduate nursing programs is made by the Department of Nursing. After the Nursing Department notifies the applicant of admission to the graduate program, the student will receive a Verification of Acceptance form that must be filled out and returned to the Department of Nursing. This form must be received before the student will be registered for any courses.

HEALTH STATUS/CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION

A health appraisal is required for all students. A completed Briar Cliff University medical history and health form must be on file at the Castle Branch website prior to beginning the first clinical nursing course. It is the policy of Briar Cliff University not to admit to its nursing program any applicant whose health, in the judgment of the University, might impair the ability to render safe nursing care.

A signed Acknowledgement of Release of Medical Information to Clinical Sites form is required for all students participating in clinical experiences in the nursing program. This permission form must be on file with the clinical coordinator before participating in a clinical experience.

The following medical information and certification must be uploaded into the Castle Branch website prior to beginning the first clinical nursing course. This information includes:

1. Briar Cliff University Medical History and Physical Health form completed, signed, and dated by a licensed health care provider.
2. Proof of current RN and ARNP licenses where applicable.
3. Official documentation of two doses of the MMR vaccine.
4. Documentation of negative TB testing as described below:
    i. Documentation of an annual TB test performed within the previous 12 months. A Quantiferon Gold test performed within the previous 12 months is also acceptable.
    If the individual has had a previous positive TST, then a chest x-ray completed within the last twelve months prior to clinical start is needed along with a Tuberculin Assessment Form that has been completed no earlier than three weeks before starting. Completion of the annual screening form with appropriate follow-up testing if applicable.
5. Documentation of immunity to Chickenpox, including lab testing results for Varicella IgG which documents immunity; or official copy of two doses of Varicella vaccine (Varivax) received since 1995, when vaccine first became available. A history of having chickenpox, even if documented by a health care provider, will not be accepted.
6. Validation of Hepatitis B vaccine series or a signed waiver releasing the agency and

Briar Cliff University of responsibility prior to beginning clinical experience.

7. Proof of receiving an annual seasonal influenza vaccination. Documentation is due by October 31st of each year.
8. Documentation of a single dose of Tdap given at age 11 or older and additional documentation of a Td booster received in the last 10 years.
9. Documentation of Covid-19 Vaccination to the most current federal and/or state requirements. Clinical sites may have differing requirements regarding COVID-19 vaccination. Students must adhere to all federal, state, and site-specific requirements before entering any clinical site.
10. Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Mandatory Reporting completed and current as applicable by state.
11. Current Basic Life Support Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification at a provider level completed prior to beginning clinical experiences. CPR certification must be maintained for all clinical experiences.
12. Evidence of a minimum of 2000 clinical nursing practice as a registered nurse within the two years prior to enrollment in the first nursing clinical course. Employment must be verified by the employer.
13. Documentation of current health insurance, including a copy of the current health insurance card (front & back).

Documentation of Clinical Health Requirements are subject to additional site-specific requirements, including but not limited to drug testing, registry checks, and orientation/training.

In accordance with Iowa House File 299, effective July 1, 2025, students must be informed of their right to seek medical or religious exemption from required immunizations.

All nursing students are expected to comply with clinical site immunization requirements. However, under Iowa law, individuals may be exempt from immunization requirements for the following reasons:

Medical exemption: Requires a signed statement from a licensed healthcare provider indicating that immunization would be injurious to the health of the individual.

Religious exemption: Requires a signed statement indicating that immunization conflicts with genuine and sincere religious beliefs.

Students requesting an exemption must submit the appropriate documentation as required by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. These forms must be approved and on file prior to participation in any clinical or practicum experiences.

Please note: While Briar Cliff University honors state-mandated exemptions, individual clinical sites may have additional requirements that students must meet to participate in their programs. Failure to meet a site's immunization policy—regardless of state exemption—may impact a student's ability to complete clinical hours and progress in the program.

For questions or to request exemption forms, please contact the Department of Nursing.

BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

All nursing students entering the graduate program will be required to submit data for a certified background check at their expense. The current cost of the background check and document tracker is $129.60 and is subject to change at any time without prior notice; this fee may or may not be

included in course fees. Please check with the clinical coordinator before purchasing. Background checks need to be completed online at http://www.Castlebranch.com prior to beginning clinical rotations. Students may be required to provide additional documentation or drug screens based on the individual requirements of specific clinical placement sites. Any criminal offenses on current record may affect the student's ability to be licensed. Students are required to notify the nursing department of any changes in criminal offenses.

Students each have confidential access to the results of their own background check status. Background check results are reviewed by the clinical coordinator and if needed the Graduate Nursing Faculty Organization (GNFO) of the Department of Nursing. Should there be a negative background check finding, the GNFO will determine if a student is eligible to participate in clinical courses. Eligibility is based on the nature of the finding, clinical site requirements, and the Iowa Board of Nursing administrative rules. Students may submit an appeal to the GNFO if additional data may be of benefit. Appeal decisions will be judged on documented factual issues. If a student is unable to complete the program clinical requirements due to background check results, students may be dismissed from the program in which they are enrolled.

Students are expected to have current training in HIPAA, OSHA, and Mandatory Reporter as required for state licensure.

RELOCATION/CHANGES IN LICENSURE

Relocating during the course of a program to another state may impact if the student can remain in the program, meet the state licensure requirements and/or continue to receive financial aid funding. Prior to considering relocation, please contact your program to discuss authorization and licensure.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Department of Nursing of any changes in the status of an RN or APRN license immediately. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that a current copy of RN and APRN licensure is on file with the Nursing office. Failure to provide this information may result in the inability to progress in the program.

STATE LICENSURE

Students should review the specific academic requirements for the program in which they are enrolling, including those related to practicum/internship as well as pre-qualifications for licensure such as the need for a criminal background check. We highly recommend that students contact the applicable licensure board(s) in their state of residence or in the state where they intend to obtain a license before beginning an academic program that results in licensure and prior to beginning any internship/practicum. Many licensure boards require more than successful degree completion to obtain a license. Please be advised that state laws, regulations, and policies may change at any time. Changes in requirements can impact the program's ability to meet educational requirements for licensure. It is the responsibility of the student completing the licensure program to check with the licensing board(s) in their state of residence or in the state in which they intend to obtain a license for the most recent information and requirements. BCU shall not be held liable if the student is unable to qualify for licensure or certification in any jurisdiction or cannot obtain a practicum/internship location.

PROGRAM LENGTH/TIME LIMITS

Once admitted, graduate students have 6 years in which to complete the MSN program and 4 years to complete the DNP program. Students completing coursework beyond the noted timeframe may be required to retake courses that have had substantial changes.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Required Courses

MSN Nurse Practitioner Program

Core Courses

NURS 501, 510, 520, 529, 550, 570, 631, 632 (FNP/AGNP ONLY), 675, and 760;

Family Nurse Practitioner Courses

NURS 621, 622, 624, 711, 712, 715, 730, 746, 747

Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Courses

NURS 621, 622, 624, 715, 730, 756, 758, 759

Psychiatric Mental Health Courses

NURS 621, 622, 624, 647, 617, 717, 727, 767

Post-graduate APRN Certificate Program

Core Courses

NURS 631 & 632 if needed
NURS 570 & 550 if needed
NURS 621, 622, 624 if needed

Family Nurse Practitioner Courses

NURS 711, 712, 715, 730, 746, 747

Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Courses

NURS 715, 730, 756, 758, 759

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Courses

NURS 647, 617, 717, 727, 767

Post-graduate DNP Program

NURS 675, 800, 810, 820, 840, 846, 856, 866, 876, 880, 890

GRADING

Students participating in a graduate program must display an academic aptitude of superior achievement and motivation.

All written work will follow the standard set in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) latest edition.

Benchmark assignments are identified in courses to measure achievement of program outcomes. Benchmark assignments are required for successful course completion. If a student fails to submit a benchmark assignment, the highest overall grade attainable is C+ in the course.

The quality of the student's work is indicated by the following grades and quality points:

Grade Rating	Points	Quality
A	Superior	4.00
A-		3.67
B+		3.33
B	Above Average	3.00
B-		2.67
C+		2.33
C	Average	2.00
C-		1.67
D+		1.33
D	Below Average	1.00
F	Failure	0.00

The mark "I" signifies that work in the course is incomplete because of illness or circumstances beyond the control of the student or because an instructor feels further evaluation is needed before the grade can be determined. A student who receives an "I" at the end of a course must complete the necessary work within three weeks, or the "I" will automatically become an "F."

The mark "N" signifies that a student's grade has been delayed, not because the work is incomplete, but because the learning experience extends beyond the end of the term. The grade is typically used for internships and field experiences. The "N" grade will not affect placement on the dean's list or the probationary status of a student. Students may carry an "N" grade (delayed grade) for one semester. If a final grade has not been submitted, the "N" grade will convert to an "F."

The mark "W" signifies withdrawal from a course and is given when a student officially withdraws from a course in the Office of the Registrar. After the end of the tenth week, students may withdraw from a course, but the designation is either "Withdraw passing" or "Withdraw failing". The WP designation is treated the same way as a W in the calculation of grade-point averages. However, the WF designation is treated the same way as the F in calculating grade-point averages. Students may withdraw from courses through the final day of instruction of the term. For classes that are abbreviated in duration, the withdrawal deadline is the 70% mark in the class.

The mark "X" signifies that a student has audited a class. No credit is earned when a class is audited. Students should check with faculty members before registering to audit a class in order to

determine the expectations a faculty member may have of an auditing student. Full-time students may audit a course without additional charge. A student must register to audit prior to attending the course. A student may repeat a course at any time. The transcript will record all courses taken; however, only the higher grade will be used in computing the GPA. Application for repetition of a course must be made in the Office of the Registrar to ensure correct grade recording. Departments may limit the application of this policy as it relates to courses in the student's major program.

Grades are available through ChargerStable and Brightspace.

STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Development of Plan of Study

At the time of admission, the nursing graduate student is assigned an academic advisor. The student should contact the academic advisor to discuss the student's plan of study if questions arise.

Academic Advising

Once admitted, the graduate student will communicate with their assigned academic advisor who will serve as the academic advisor until graduation.

Each student's Plan of Study will be provided by the Graduate Program Director upon admission to the graduate program. Academic advisors will register students each semester for the upcoming semester's courses.

Plan of Study Changes

Any change in an approved Plan of Study is to be initiated by the student in consultation with the academic advisor. The student and the academic advisor will submit the request to change the plan of study to the Graduate Nursing Program. The Graduate Program Director will review the request and inform the student and the advisor of its acceptance or rejection. This must be adhered to even in the substitution of courses. MSN students that are interested in changing tracks from their original application must notify advisor. The Change of Track form must be filled out and sent to advisor, Graduate Program Director, Graduate Clinical Coordinator, and Registrar.

Outdated Courses on Plan of Study

Courses on the Plan of Study taken 6 years prior to the completion of the graduate degree are considered outdated unless they have been used for another degree. Students may petition to update courses but may only update 50% of the total coursework. Such petitions begin with the department in which the course is now being offered. The student must obtain documentation from that department verifying that her/his knowledge is current. If the course is to appear on the Plan of Study for the student, approval from the Graduate Nursing Program is necessary. This includes pre-requisite courses for the postgraduate APRN certificate program admission. *This requirement may be waived for practicing nurse practitioners.

Procedure for Updating Outdated Course Work

The following guidelines are designed to assist the student, advisor, and instructor in completing the update process:

1. During the semester preceding the semester of the update, the student initiates the process with her/his academic advisor. The advisor will notify the current instructor of the course needing updating at the student's request.
2. The advisor will notify the student of the name of the instructor who has agreed to complete the update. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor. The student must complete arrangements the semester preceding the update. Delay in arrangements may result in delaying the updating process, as the agreement is based on time and faculty assignment in that particular semester.

It is the responsibility of the instructor to determine the requirements for a successful update, based on the current course requirements.

Degree and Progression Requirements

It is the intent of the Department of Nursing to offer graduate program courses as adequate enrollment, faculty, and available resources permit. Due to conditions beyond the control of Briar Cliff University, the Department of Nursing reserves the right to modify, consolidate, or cancel courses. Graduate study may include required activities on campus and off-campus locations for degree completion.

Please note: we require all tracks entering our programs to obtain 750 hours, with exception for practicing nurse practitioners.

A grade of "B-" or higher is required in all graduate nursing courses. To pass a clinical course, a student must earn a grade of B- or higher in the didactic portion and pass the clinical component. If a "C+" or lower is earned in a graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated.
**** If clinical is tied to a course, students must pass the clinical practicum in order to pass the course****

Students may repeat one failed graduate nursing course with permission. Upon failing a second graduate nursing course or failing a graduate nursing course twice, the student is dismissed from the program. A student who needs to retake a failed course is re-enrolled in the course on a space available basis.

A student who fails a course due to unsafe practice in a clinical experience will not be eligible for readmission to the nursing practicum courses unless evidence is submitted that the unsafe behavior has been corrected.

All summative exams (3Ps, Pre and Post Predictors/Exit Exam) will be graded as per the syllabus of the associated course. If students do not achieve a passing benchmark on the 3Ps exam they will be required to remediate.

All undergraduate and graduate nursing students are expected to adhere to the principles of the *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (American Nurses Association, 2025). The *Code of Ethics for Nurses*

communicates a standard of professional behavior expected throughout the total program and in each individual nursing course. Therefore, in addition to the dismissal for academic failure, the faculty and administration of the Department of Nursing reserved the right to dismiss any student enrolled in either the undergraduate or graduate nursing programs for unethical, dishonest, illegal, or other conduct that is inconsistent with the *Code of Ethics for Nurses.*

Repeated Courses

All courses taken appear on the student's academic record, but when a course is repeated, only the most recent grade is calculated into the cumulative GPA. Relative to the number of repeats allowed:

- A student may enroll in a graduate nursing course (for which credit is granted only once) no more than two times without permission from the Graduate Program Director.

Dropping a Course

Students may drop classes in their schedules with the help of faculty advisors. Students may withdraw from classes through the "last day to withdraw" date in a term. To withdraw from classes students will need written consent both from their faculty advisor and from the instructor of the class from which they wish to withdraw and the last date of attendance or class participation. When the deadline for withdrawing from a course has expired, students may withdraw but will receive a grade of 'WP' for withdraw passing or 'WF' for withdraw failing. 'WP' grades do not impact cumulative GPA. 'WF' grades calculate into cumulative GPA the same as an 'F' grade. Withdrawing from a course that is not the entire length of the semester will switch to the penalty grading at the 70% mark in the course duration. Financial aid will NOT be adjusted after the first week of the semester regardless of changes in registration.

Student Behavior During a Course

Classroom/Lab

If a student's behavior in a course is considered to be unsafe or disruptive by the faculty member, it is the responsibility of the faculty member to inform the student of the unsafe or disruptive behavior as soon as possible and provide guidance and direction for improvement. Should a student's behavior continue to be unsafe or disruptive, the faculty member has the right to remove the student from the course. The student must be informed of the reason for removal and must be presented with a written learning contract within two working days. The written learning contract must include:

1. A description of the unsafe behavior.
2. The criteria that must be met for return to the classroom/lab area.
3. The date by which the criteria must be met.
4. The consequences of not meeting the criteria by the due date.

The written learning contract is signed by the faculty member and the student, and a copy is forwarded to the Graduate Program Director. The student is accountable for the terms of the contract.

Online Video Conferencing Etiquette

1. Be on time when connecting to the video conferencing class time.
2. Participants are required to join the class with ***both*** audio and video.
3. Mute audio when not speaking. This helps to keep background noise to a minimum.
4. Make certain your technology works correctly. Do a test run before the meeting/class time starts.
5. Have the right lighting. Poor lighting has a big effect on the video quality. Make sure that there is enough light in the room so that you are not grainy and unwatchable.
6. Be fully engaged in the meeting and pay attention. It is expected that you participate in video conferencing class time, just as you would in the face-to-face environment. You are not allowed to check emails, have side conversations via messaging, etc. during class time.
7. Be courteous to other students and participants during the meeting/class time. Do not interrupt other speakers.
8. When talking, speak clearly.
9. Limit your distractions.
10. Wear appropriate clothing. You are not required to dress up but choose something that you would wear face-to-face.
11. Consider your environment. Have a simple background or use a virtual background. Find a quiet space to meet and shut the door to minimize unexpected distractions from children, family, or pets.

Unsafe or Unacceptable Behavior during Clinical Courses

If a student's behavior is considered to be unsafe in the clinical setting, it is the responsibility of the faculty to talk with the student about the behavior and to provide guidance and direction for improvement. The guidance may include a learning contract. The following are examples of unsafe or unacceptable performance. However, this is not an inclusive list, and the final determination of unsafe behavior is based on the faculty member's professional judgment:

- Inability to complete care within the established time frame.
- Inappropriate or untimely communication.
- Evidence of behaviors that reflect an impaired state.
- Evidence of inadequate preparation for clinical activities.
- Incorrect or inadequate assessment or intervention.
- Failure to follow dress code guidelines.
- Dishonesty.

In consideration of faculty guidance, should a student's behavior continue to be unsafe in a clinical course, and the student has chosen not to drop the course, the faculty member can choose to remove the student from the clinical area. The faculty should advise the student that they will fail the course; however, the student has ultimate responsibility to drop the course.

Graduate STUDENT DRUG TESTING POLICY

Briar Cliff University's Department of Nursing is committed to the health, safety and well-being of all students who participate in its programs and represent the college in clinical agencies. The use of illegal drugs, misuse of legal drugs and dietary supplements, misuse of alcohol and inappropriate use of tobacco products are inconsistent with standards expected of students at Briar Cliff University. The use of these types of substances can pose risks to the student's health, negatively affect his or her academic performance, pose risks to the safety of others and diminish clinical performance. It can also compromise the integrity of patient care and the ideals of Briar Cliff University. The Department of Nursing at Briar Cliff University believes it is our responsibility to do everything possible to protect the health and well-being of our students.

PURPOSE

The central purpose of the program is to protect students from the detrimental effects of drug use/abuse and meet clinical compliance requirements set forth by the Department of Nursing's clinical partners. Other specific goals of the comprehensive testing program are as follows:

- **Education** – to provide educational guidance to students to ensure awareness of the physical, mental, and legal consequences of illegal drug use.
- **Prevention** – to discourage students from drug experimentation and possible drug abuse and dependency by imposing significant sanctions on offenders.
- **Detection of abuse** – to detect students who may be involved in substance use or abuse through testing methods.
- **Treatment and Rehabilitation** – to assist those students for whom a possible drug problem exists in obtaining rehabilitation through drug counseling programs available through referral for counseling services.
- **Promote health and safety of student nursing clinical practice** – to provide reasonable safeguards assuring that every student can participate in nursing practice unimpaired by illegal or banned drugs.
- **Meet clinical compliance requirements** – to assure clinical agencies that student nurses have been screened for substances which could negatively impact patient safety in accordance with the requirements of the clinical sites' accrediting agencies.

CLINICAL AGENCIES

Briar Cliff University students are subject to drug screening policies and procedures of the clinical agency in which they are assigned. Clinical agencies have the right to deny students clinical placement in their facilities.

TYPES OF DRUG TESTING

- **Requirement for Clinical Placement**
  Testing may be required of any nursing student as part of clinical placement requirements stipulated by the Department of Nursing's clinical partners.
- **Reasonable Suspicion**
  Any nursing student participating in clinical practice is subject to drug testing upon request if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student may be using illegal drugs, misusing legal drugs and dietary supplements or misusing alcohol or tobacco products. Circumstances which constitute reasonable cause, include but are not limited to, the following: current or past involvement with the criminal justice system for drug related activities, notification from Student Life of any report that includes the presence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia, prior treatment for drug problems, admission of a current drug problem, prior positive drug test, physiological signs of possible impairment from drugs or a pattern of abnormal behavior. The possession and/or use of illegal substances may be determined by means other than urinalysis. When an individual is found to be in possession and/or using such substances, he/she will be subject to the same procedures that would be followed in the case of a positive urinalysis.
- **Re-entry Testing**
  Any student testing positive for an illegal substance will be subject to testing prior to release from administrative sanctions. An increase in drug metabolite from the most recent test indicates usage and therefore a subsequent offense.
- **Follow-up Testing**
  Any student testing positive for an illegal substance may be subject to repeated follow-up testing. A test result of negative dilute shall necessitate retesting. Retesting may be at the student's expense.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Testing as a Requirement for Clinical Experiences: In the event a clinical site requests a drug test from a student prior to or during a clinical experience, the student will arrange the drug testing directly with the site and/or other clinic that can perform the required testing. The student is responsible for any costs or related costs of the testing.

Testing as a Result of Reasonable Cause: Faculty or clinical instructors may initiate reasonable cause testing for reasonable suspicion during any clinical experience. Notification for drug testing will be made to the student once the faculty person has notified and gained approval for drug

testing from the Nursing Department Chair or his/her designee. Drug testing for reasonable suspicion may include blood as well as urine. The student also acknowledges that failure or refusal to appear or tampering with the urine sample will constitute a positive test result and will be subject to disciplinary action and/or dismissal. Additionally, tardiness will not be tolerated and failure to appear within the designated testing window will be considered a missed test.

REASONABLE CAUSE: TEST SITE & COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Drug testing for reasonable cause will commonly be conducted at an approved lab contracted by the Nursing Department or by the requiring clinical agency. The drug testing collection process will be administered by the contracted drug screening vendor and its lab partners. The student is responsible for any costs or related costs of the testing.

STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Maintaining confidentiality and protection of the rights of the student is a critical factor in drug-testing. Every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of students under this policy, including those who test positive, undergo reasonable suspicion testing, or enter treatment programs. Only persons with a "need to know" will be informed of the drug testing results. Under no circumstances will any Briar Cliff University personnel or anyone else associated with the drug testing program be permitted to discuss publicly any information acquired in their capacity.

COLLEGE PERSONNEL

In the event a drug test is requested for reasonable suspicion, the Nursing Department Clinical Coordinator or his/her designee will serve as the site coordinator and liaison between the Nursing Dept. Chair, drug screening contractor and the laboratory conducting the tests. The Department of Nursing Chair will be involved in all cases of positive tests.

MEDICAL EXCEPTION PROCESS

Briar Cliff University recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Documentation from the student's prescribing physician will be requested by the

Medical Review Officer of the drug screening vendor if a positive test occurs. The Medical Review Officer will confirm medical need and render the test negative, as appropriate.

REASONABLE CAUSE: RESULTS NOTIFICATION

The Nursing Department Clinical Coordinator will receive results (positive or negative). All results will be handled using strict confidentiality. The Nursing Department Chair will be notified in the case of a positive or dilute test.

SANCTIONS FOR POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Among the sanctions that may result from positive institutional drug tests are:

- Loss of clinical participation privileges
- Clinical course failure
- Permanent dismissal from the nursing program
- Financial responsibility for retesting and/or clinical make-up costs

Positive drug test results are cumulative for the student's nursing career at Briar Cliff University. Additionally, failure to sign the consent to test form, failure to appear for requested testing, or any attempt to manipulate test results will be considered a positive test and appropriate sanctions will apply.

VIOLATION of policy

- The Nursing Clinical Coordinator will schedule a confidential meeting with the student, Nursing Clinical Compliance Coordinator and Department of Nursing Chair to inform them of the positive test result.
- The student may no longer be eligible to participate in clinical rotations resulting in failure of the student's clinical course. In addition, the student may be permanently dismissed from the nursing program at Briar Cliff University. The student may not be permitted to reapply to the program.
- The student will be required to attend two counseling sessions with the college's counselor for the purposes of evaluation, education, and if necessary, treatment, counseling, or referral. The counselor will determine if additional sessions are warranted based on his/her initial evaluation of the student. He/she will determine when the student has satisfactorily met counseling requirements and thereby released from required counseling sessions.

REFERRALS TO THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

When counseling services for the purpose of assessment and/or treatment are required, the referring party will make known to the counseling provider a time frame when the assessment or treatment will be needed by the Nursing Department. This will allow the Counseling Department to schedule interviews in a timely manner. The student will be required to sign a release of information to allow communication between the counselor and the nursing department. Failure by the student to meaningfully participate in the evaluation/counseling process may result in dismissal from the program.

Administrative Withdrawal

Briar Cliff University reserves the right to withdraw any student from classes at any time during the semester or term for reasons such as (but not limited to):
• Disruptive behavior.
• Unable or unwilling to initiate the withdrawal due to extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness, accidental, etc.
• Lack of course prerequisites(s).
• Lack of instructor or departmental approval for a course.
• Academic dishonesty.

The administrative withdrawal grade of "AW" is used to withdraw a student from one or more courses or all courses. This withdrawal can be done up until the last business day of the semester. An "AW" will not affect the GPA. Once registered, the student retains responsibility and financial liability for all registered courses. Tuition refunds will not be granted when students are withdrawn by the institution for cause.

Steps:
1. Faculty, administrators, or staff will gather the documentation to support the withdrawal.
2. They will give the documentation to the Registrar who will initiate the withdrawal form.
3. The Registrar will give the form and documentation to the appropriate Vice President who will authorize the withdrawal. When necessary, the Vice President will designate someone in their absence to handle an administrative withdrawal. The Registrar's Office will notify Financial Aid, Business Office, Academic Advisor, and Student Achievement Office

Grievance Procedure

DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM

A student may be dismissed from the program at any time for failure to meet the program's standards of academic performance and progress. A student may be denied admission or be dismissed from the program for such things as:
poor academic performance,
conduct which violates the ethical or professional standards of the program.

APPEALING GRADES AND OTHER MATTERS
A student has the right to appeal for any decision in academic study which is believed to have been arbitrary, capricious, or prejudiced. The appeal will be in accord with the following guidelines.

Discuss the grievance with the faculty member involved.

IF THERE IS NO RESOLUTION:

Appeal to the Graduate Program Director in writing within three working days of discussing the grievance with the faculty member involved. Include in the written document circumstances of the grievance, specific concerns, and a possible appropriate remedy. The student will make an appointment and meet with the Graduate Program Director. The student will be notified in writing of the Graduate Program Director's decision.

Appeal to the Department of Nursing Chairperson in writing within three working days of notification by the Graduate Program Director. Include in the written document circumstances of the grievance, specific concerns, and a possible appropriate remedy. The student will make an appointment and meet with the Chairperson. The student will be notified in writing of the Chairperson's decision.

IF THERE IS NO RESOLUTION:

Appeal to the Vice President for Academic Affairs in writing within three working days of notification by the Department of Nursing Chairperson. Include in the written document circumstances of the grievance, specific concerns, and a possible appropriate remedy. The student will make an appointment and meet with the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The student will be notified in writing of the decision.

In all cases, the decision of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is final.

Technology Requirements

Students are expected to have access to and ability to utilize a functional webcam and microphone are required for the application process and online course participation.

Grade Point Average

Students must earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Students whose GPA falls below 3.0 at any time during the program will be placed on academic probation and are subject to dismissal from the program if the GPA does not return to a 3.0 at the end of the next semester of coursework.

Incomplete Grades

The Department of Nursing complies with all policies related to incomplete grades.

Class Absences

Participation in all courses is a university expectation. All students are held accountable for attaining the course outcome criteria despite absences. Students are required to notify the course professor of all absences prior to the absence or immediately thereafter in the case of an emergency. Online course expectations will be set out in the syllabi. Students are required to attend on-site lab days at Briar Cliff University's Sioux City campus as part of NURS 631-Advanced Health Assessment and NURS 632-Advanced Practice Skills Lab. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Graduate Nursing Faculty Organization on a case-by-case basis. These on-site lab days occur during the summer semester.

Excused Absences

There are activities that are regarded as Department of Nursing approved events for excused absences from nursing labs or practicum. In order to be an excused absence, students must be

attending these events either in conjunction with their participation in a professional organization, as a class assignment, or as a professional board or committee member. Students must arrange in advance with the clinical preceptor to request an excused absence from lab or practicum experience to attend approved events. The student is responsible for any missed course content.

Human Subjects Protection

All MSN students, as a required assignment for the EBP series (NURS 621, NURS 622, and NURS 624) will prepare a BCU Institutional Review Board (IRB) Assessment Form for their Evidence Based Practice Initiative.

All DNP students, as a required assignment for NURS856, NURS866 & NRUS876, will prepare a BCU IRB Proposal for their DNP EBP Initiative. The proposal will include tools, consent forms, cover letters, and answers to the points in the BCU IRB application.

In Progress DNP Evidence Based Practice Initiative

There are 4 EBP Initiative courses within the DNP curriculum. Students must successfully complete the EBP Initiative benchmarks for each course in sequence in order to move to the next EBP Initiative course. If the benchmark is not achieved, the student must repeat that EBP Initiative course the following semester. If the project is delayed due to circumstances beyond the student's control, an N will be given until the project is completed and defended. An N will automatically be converted to an F if not changed by the project advisor at the completion of the following semester.

Academic Integrity: Policy, Procedures and Appeals

Definitions and Examples

Briar Cliff University strives to create an environment in which the dignity of each person is recognized. Accordingly, integrity in relationships and work is supported and rewarded, and honesty in academic matters is expected of all students. Actions which are contrary to the spirit of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Any attempt to misrepresent someone else's work as one's own (including generative artificial intelligence), receive credit for assignments one did not do, obtain an unfair advantage over other students in the completion of work, or aid another student to do the above will be considered a breach of academic integrity. These include but are not limited to:

- obtaining, disseminating or using unauthorized materials, including generative artificial intelligence for the completion of an examination, paper or assignment.
- unauthorized collusion with another student in completing an assignment.
- submitting as one's own the work of another student, generative artificial intelligence, or allowing one's work to be submitted for credit by another.
- copying from another student's paper or allowing one's paper to be copied.
- computer theft which includes unauthorized duplication of software, unauthorized access into accounts other than one's own and the use of university resources (computer facilities, networks, software, etc.) for financial gain; and
- Plagiarism: presenting another's ideas, words, or work as one's own without proper attribution. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
  - Direct copying of text from another source without citation.
  - Paraphrasing another's work without giving credit.

- Submitting AI-generated content as one's own.
- Using AI to translate text and present it as original work.
- Using AI to paraphrase or rewrite content without proper attribution.
- Improper use of sources, including failure to cite or misrepresent sources.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves borrowing another speaker's or writer's words, ideas, or arrangement of ideas without giving credit to the source of those words, ideas, or arrangements (Duff, Rogers, & Harris, 2006; Mundava & Chaudhuri, 2007). Plagiarism can be major or minor. Major plagiarism is considered cheating; when one deliberately copies another person's words or ideas without acknowledgment in an attempt to deceive the assessor and gain advantage by doing so (Wilkinson 2009; Park, Park, & Jang, 2013). Minor plagiarism might occur due to naivety or lack of knowledge. For a more detailed explanation of what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, the student is referred to *The Little Brown Handbook*, which is available in the Bishop Mueller Library. Minor plagiarism is usually due to improper citation of reference sources. The best way to avoid this is to learn how to cite sources correctly. A properly cited reference allows the reader to retrieve your reference to learn more about the content of the reference. Being naïve or unfamiliar with proper formatting does not excuse unintentional plagiarism.

Self-plagiarism (also referred to as *recycling fraud*) "refers to the practice of presenting one's own previously published work as though it were new" (APA, 2010, p. 170). It is important to know how to cite one's previous work in order to prevent this breach of academic integrity. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Using a direct quote from a source without both putting it in quotation marks and providing appropriate documentation
- Submitting direct quotes as a paraphrase
- Changing only a few words in a quote and using it as a paraphrase
- Using a direct quote from a source without giving credit to the source
- Paraphrasing a source without giving credit to the source
- Presenting any ideas of others (obtained via the internet, through publications, speeches, etc.) as your own
- Downloading and submitting work from electronic databases without proper citation
- Copying from another's exam, homework, or lab work
- Submitting a paper or coursework you had previously submitted for a class (at Briar Cliff or elsewhere) without the knowledge and approval of the instructor
- Participating in group activity where plagiarized materials are discovered
- Giving permission to another student to use one of your papers as their own
- Willfully fabricate quotations or resources.

AI Usage and Academic Integrity

Students are expected to submit work that reflects their own understanding, skills, and intellectual efforts. While AI tools can assist in learning, they must not replace original thought, research, or analysis in assignments. Individual courses designate specific AI usage requirements as outlined in the course syllabus. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these requirements and adhering to them.

Students are encouraged to explore Al tools to enhance their learning experience, but the use of Al-generated content must be clearly disclosed and strictly adhere to the course-specific requirements

provided by the instructor. Depending on the course, Al may be used for tasks such as brainstorming or outlining, but any Al involvement must be clearly disclosed, ensuring transparency in the student's work. Misuse of Al, failure to follow the instructor's specific Al policy, and failure to disclose AI usage will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and subject to disciplinary action.

The following principles will apply:

- Disclosure: Any use of AI tools in assignments must be disclosed, including the specific tools used and the extent of their contribution to the final work.
- Permitted Use: AI tools may be used as designated by the course instructor. Each course will designate a policy for AI use and include this policy in the course syllabus. Students are obliged to adhere to the course policy in order to use AI responsibly. When AI tools are permitted, AI-generated content without proper citation will be considered a violation of this policy.
- Prohibited Use: AI tools should not be used for any exams or assessments unless explicitly permitted by the instructor.

Investigating Allegations of AI-Based Plagiarism

If an instructor suspects that a student has used AI to complete assignments without disclosure, the following steps will be taken:

1. Initial Review: The instructor will carefully review the assignment in question considering factors such as writing style, originality, and any inconsistencies that might suggest AI assistance.
2. AI Detection Software: The instructor may utilize AI detection software (e.g., Turnitin, online AI detector tools, etc.) to analyze the assignment for potential AI-generated content. The results of this analysis will be considered alongside other factors and interpreted cautiously, recognizing the limitations of such tools.
3. Student Consultation: The instructor will communicate with the student to discuss their process for completing the assignment. This discussion will focus on understanding the student's approach, sources used, and any potential use of AI tools. The goal is to gather information and provide the student an opportunity to explain their work.
4. Evidence Gathering: If concerns about AI-based plagiarism persist, the instructor may gather additional evidence, such as:
    a. Examining the student's previous work for inconsistencies in writing style or quality.
    b. Reviewing the assignment's metadata or digital history for potential traces of AI usage.
    c. Consulting with other faculty or academic support staff who may have expertise in AI detection or academic integrity.
5. Determination and Action: Based on the available evidence and the student's explanation, the instructor will determine whether AI-based plagiarism has occurred.
    a. If plagiarism is confirmed, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the University's academic integrity policies. This may include assignment failure, course failure, suspension, or other sanctions as deemed appropriate.
    b. If there is insufficient evidence to confirm plagiarism, the instructor will provide feedback to the student and may offer guidance on the appropriate use of AI tools in academic work.

Throughout this process the University will uphold principles of fairness, transparency, and due process, ensuring that students are treated equitably and given opportunities to respond to allegations of AI-based plagiarism.

Consequences of Academic Integrity Violations

The penalties for academic integrity violations range depending on the severity and frequency of the violation.

Minor Violation

For minor violations involving academic integrity, the penalty will be determined by the course instructor in consultation with the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, in line with Briar Cliff University's academic integrity policy. Penalties may vary depending on the severity, frequency, and/or extent of the violation. Possible outcomes include:

- Assignment Failure: The student may receive a failing grade (zero) on the assignment in question. The severity of the penalty may depend on the amount of unoriginal content and whether the student demonstrates an understanding of proper citation practices.
- Mandatory Resubmission: In some cases, the instructor may allow the student to resubmit the assignment after addressing the violation, though this will come with a significant grade penalty (e.g., a reduction of the final grade by a certain percentage).
- Educational Sanctions: The instructor may require the student to complete additional educational components, such as attending a workshop on academic integrity or writing a reflection on the importance of original work and proper citation practices.
- Warning: A formal warning may be issued, indicating that any subsequent violation will result in more severe penalties, including failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Instructors must report all instances of academic integrity violations to the Academic and Student Affairs Office, which will document the offense in the student's academic record. This documentation ensures that if further violations occur, appropriate action can be taken, leading to progressively more severe penalties.

Major Violation

For major violations involving academic integrity, the penalty will be determined by the course instructor and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, in line with Briar Cliff University's academic integrity policy. Penalties

will be more severe to reflect the severity, frequency, and/or extent of the violation. The following actions may be taken, based on the instructor's assessment and as determined by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs:

- Automatic Failure of the Course: The student may receive an automatic failing grade ("F") for the entire course. This is typically enforced when the violation is significant or shows a clear pattern of academic dishonesty.
- Disciplinary Probation: The student may be placed on academic or disciplinary probation, which means they are no longer in good academic standing. This can limit participation in extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and could impact scholarships or financial aid eligibility.
- Mandatory Academic Integrity Training**:** The student may be required to complete a formal academic integrity workshop or module, aimed at addressing the behavior and reinforcing the importance of original work. Failure to complete this may lead to further sanctions.

- Suspension from the University**:** Depending on the severity of the violation, the student may face suspension from the University for a defined period, during which they will not be able to attend classes or participate in University activities. This period allows the student time to reflect on their academic conduct before returning to complete their studies.
- Permanent Record Documentation**:** The second offense will be documented in the student's academic file, and this record may be used if any further violations occur, potentially leading to dismissal from the University.

Students may appeal decisions based on grievance/appeal procedures outlined in the student handbook.

Appeals

In all cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall, in writing, notify the student of the specific charges and circumstances and a copy of the notice shall be sent to the chairperson of the department in which the course is offered and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The burden of proof resides with the instructor. The instructor must provide documentation of the assignment instruction as well as clear identification of the integrity breach. If the student wishes to deny the allegations or appeal the penalty, he/she must, within 10 working days of notification, file with the department chairperson a written intent to appeal. After the 10 days have elapsed, the student forfeits his/her right to appeal. This appeal must contain clear documentation as to how the student followed the appropriate citation and integrity guidelines including ambiguity in assignment instruction. If the instructor is the chairperson of the division or department, the appeal shall be directed to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The person to whom the appeal is made will weigh the documentable evidence presented by both parties and determine if an oral hearing. The arbitrator will provide documented adjudication to both parties within one business day of receiving the documented appeal by the student. The person to whom the appeal is made will weigh the evidence presented (in writing or at an oral hearing) by both the student and the instructor and make a judgment. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student, faculty member, or supervisor, the appeal process will continue to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, whose decision will be final. If this is a second offense, the student may appeal the VPAA's decision to the Appeal Board, whose decision will be final.

All material and information relative to any violation of academic integrity shall be kept by the Vice President for Academic Affairs in a special file during the period in which the student is enrolled at Briar Cliff University, serving only as a statement of record if the student is subsequently charged with a violation of academic integrity. In case of a successful appeal, the file will be destroyed if the student is found not guilty of the offense. If the student is found guilty, the file remains until the student's graduation from Briar Cliff University or three years after the student's last date of enrollment.

To support the academic integrity statement, faculty members are expected to:

- Provide clear instructions regarding assignment parameters and integrity expectations.
- Administer, monitor, and evaluate tests and other assignments in a fair and consistent manner.
- Report all violations of academic integrity policies to their department chairperson and the Vice President for Academic Affairs in writing.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

Communication between students and instructors takes place by e-mail. Faculty will answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays. Communication during weekends and holidays may require longer response times. **Timely and effective communication is an expectation of all didactic and clinical courses. When a reply is requested, students must reply to faculty emails within 48 hours.** Each failure to do so may result in receiving a deduction in the overall course grade. A minimum of 5% of the final grade may be deducted for failure to comply with the communication expectation. For courses that are pass/fail, failing to comply with the communication expectation could result in failing the course.

Graduate Student Participation in Faculty Research and/ or EBP Initiatives

Faculty members are encouraged to make learning opportunities in research or service available to graduate students outside of class. DNP or MSN students may work with faculty members conducting research and/or EBP initiatives in a variety of roles. The student's involvement must be clearly outlined prior to the student being involved.

Travel

Graduate students are responsible for their own transportation to class, labs, and practicum placements. Unique assignments that involve group arrangements may be negotiated with the course professor. ***Travel time does not count as clinical time.*** In order to obtain specific clinical experiences to meet course objectives, students may be required to travel to clinical settings in a variety of geographic settings. Students should be aware of the possibility of direct and the indirect expenses associated with such travel. Student refusal to accept a clinical site may result in the student's inability to complete the clinical hours requirement- which may delay and/or impede progress in the program plan of study.

Clinical/Practicum Setting Selection for NP and DNP Courses

1. The Graduate Clinical Coordinator, DNP Practicum coordinator, or course faculty will approve practicum sites and preceptors based on the feasibility of achieving specified learning outcomes.

Specific Policies for Students during Clinical Experiences in Clinical Facilities

1. Specific Behaviors- Students are expected to arrange dates and times for clinical experiences with the preceptor or designated office staff member. Students (AGPCNP and FNP) are expected to do their first 3 rotations of clinical in a primary care setting. Students will then be allowed to make clinical arrangements with specialties after the completion of the first 3 rotations of primary care hours. Students are to be timely and courteous. If they need to be absent from a scheduled clinical day, due to illness or emergency, they are responsible for notifying the preceptor before the start of the clinical day. Students are responsible for tracking and meeting the required number of clinical hours for each course and the overall program. Clinical hours are documented/tracked in Typhon and must be submitted within 24 hours of clinical activity. Clinical hours to be completed will be listed on the student's plan of study.

2. Students are guests of the preceptor and clinical site. They are to use proper introductions of self to patients and staff. Patients must be asked if they want a student to conduct their visit. If this request has not been made prior to a student assignment with a particular patient, the student should proceed with the request and obtain permission.
3. Professional Dress- Student dress code is business casual unless a specific dress code is designated by the clinical site. They must wear a name badge with their designation as a student. The following are not to be worn during clinical practicums: excessive jewelry, jeans, revealing blouses or tops, open toe shoes, exposed body piercings (with the exception of one piercing in each ear), long fingernails, exposed tattoos. Lab coats with the BCU patch on the left arm sleeve three inches below the seam are to be worn unless not consistent with preceptor or clinical site preference.
4. Preparation- Read and review the Graduate Clinical Handbook. Students should be prepared for clinical practicums. This preparation includes developing individual learning objectives, conferring with the preceptor on specific learning needs, and seeking independent learning experiences to improve autonomy and self-confidence. Students are expected to fill out a clinical goal sheet for each rotation in the semester. The goal sheets will be reviewed with faculty oversight and with the preceptor prior to the start of the clinical rotation. At the completion of the clinical experience, the clinical goals will be evaluated by the student, preceptor, and faculty oversight.
5. End of Day Debriefing- If not initiated by preceptor, student should request feedback on what went well, what they need to improve upon, and what types of experiences they would like to have during subsequent clinical days.
6. Clinical Logs- Students are required to enter HIPAA compliant data into a web-based clinical tracking system for each patient they are involved with during their clinical practicum experiences. They are also required to record the dates and times of their experiences onto a time log within this system. Students document completion of clinical procedures (observed, assisted, or performed) in this manner. Time logs much be entered within 24 hours and case logs must be entered within 7 days of the clinical date. Faculty will review these systems regularly.
7. Costs Related to Clinical Experiences- The student is responsible for his or her individual costs related to clinical experiences. This includes transportation and may also include overnight hotel and meal costs.
8. Please see the Graduate Clinical Handbook for more specific information related to clinical.

Faculty Site Visits and Additional Charges

- Selected courses will require a faculty member visit to the student's practicum site.
- Site visits are conducted virtually. If an in-person site visit is required, the student will be responsible for travel expenses for the faculty member or for their own expenses traveling to a clinical site in which a faculty member practices.
- Access to a computer and patient consent are required for these virtual visits. If a site/student is unable to accommodate or refuses virtual technology, a site visit will be made in person, or the student will be required to travel to a faculty's clinical site or campus for an alternative OSCE evaluation. The student **will be** required to pay for faculty travel to the site(s) if online technology is unavailable or if graduate faculty have determined that an in-person visit is required. Travel expenses may include:
    - Mileage/Air Travel
    - Motel for the number of nights required
    - Rental car fees

Should a student fail a site visit (virtual or in person) requiring additional follow-up visits by faculty, the student will be responsible for all associated travel expenses for repeat visits, etc.

Student Information

Photocopying Services

Students are responsible for expenses of photocopying related to class presentations and other course assignments.

Library Services

The Bishop Mueller Library is available for students on campus and online.

Opportunities for Student Participation in Decision Making

The BCU Nursing faculty will select a graduate representative who will communicate with the Graduate Program Director. These representatives may attend the NFO meetings monthly. Additionally, students are encouraged to provide input related to program effectiveness and suggestions for change and improvement.

Students are asked to evaluate each course at its completion and to the program overall. Student input is vital to continual quality improvement of the program. The feedback provided is utilized by faculty in an ongoing process of curriculum development and revision.

Graduation Process

MSN Nurse Practitioner

INTENT TO GRADUATE
The student must file an "Application for Graduation" form online with the Registrar's Office in the fall semester prior to the graduation deadline.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
The 56.5 graduate credits hours for the FNP or 54.5 credits hours for the PMHNP students or the 53.5 graduate credit hours for the AGNP student must be completed within six years of the student's initial admission into the program.
Completion of the program with a CGPA of 3.0 or above.
A grade of "B-" or higher is required in all graduate nursing courses. To pass a clinical course, a student must earn a grade of B- or higher in the didactic portion and pass the clinical component. If a "C+" or lower is earned in a graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated.
A student who fails to attain a "B-" in a nursing course is permitted to repeat that course only one time.
Exhibit competency in oral and written English:
Written competency will be determined by the submission of the evidence-based practice initiative completed during the program. This initiative must have received a letter grade of B- or higher and have been written in the APA style.

Oral competency will be determined at the time of the oral comprehensive. Oral competency will be evaluated on the student's ability to organize and articulate what was learned in the initiative. In addition, the student's delivery will be evaluated for professional appearance, the ability to persuade the listener(s), and the effective use of voice.
Final Assessment of MSN student learning:
Successfully complete NURS624 in the spring of year three.
Successfully complete the oral comprehensive in the spring semester of year three.

Post-graduate APRN Certificate Programs

INTENT TO GRADUATE
The student must file an "Application for Graduation" form online with the Registrar's Office in the fall semester prior to the graduation deadline.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
The 27.5 graduate credit hours for the post- graduate FNP program or the 24.5 graduate credit hours for the post-graduate AGPCNP program or 25.5 graduate credit hours for the post-graduate PMHNP program must be completed within six years of the student's initial admission into the program.
Completion of the program with a CGPA of 3.0 or above.
A grade of "B-" or higher is required in all graduate nursing courses. To pass a clinical course, a student must earn a grade of B- or higher in the didactic portion and pass the clinical component. If a "C+" or lower is earned in a graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated.
A student who fails to attain a "B-" in a nursing course is permitted to repeat that course only one time.

Post-graduate DNP Program

INTENT TO GRADUATE
The student must file an "Application for Graduation" form online with the Registrar's Office in the fall semester prior to the graduation deadline.

FINAL ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
FINAL ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
Final assessment of student learning will occur in the following way:
Students are required to provide an oral presentation of their completed Evidence Based Practice Initiative to the graduate nursing faculty. In addition, students may present their projects to their institution/agency sponsors.
Students must submit a scholarly paper, which includes the background and significance of the project, a comprehensive review of the literature, a detailed description of the project and outcomes, to their project advisor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:
The graduate credit hours for the post master's DNP program must be completed within four years of the student's initial admission into the program.
Completion of the program with a CGPA of 3.0 or above.
A grade of "B-" or higher is required in all graduate nursing courses. To pass a clinical course, a student must earn a grade of B- or higher in the didactic portion and pass the clinical component. If a "C+" or lower is earned in a graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated.

A student who fails to attain a "B-" in a nursing course is permitted to repeat that course only one time.
Exhibit proficiency in oral and written English:
Written competency will be determined by the submission of the Evidence Based Practice Initiative final scholarly paper. This project must complete the requirements for the Evidence Based Practice Initiative and have been written in the APA style.
b. Oral competency will be determined at the time of the oral presentation of the Evidence Based Practice Initiative to the graduate faculty. Oral competency will be evaluated on the student's ability to organize and articulate what was learned in the initiative. In addition, the student's delivery will be evaluated for professional appearance, the ability to persuade the listener(s), and the effective use of voice.

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the on-going effectiveness of teaching and learning in the graduate program, students are invited to participate in the assessment process at the end of each course, at the end of the program, and as alumni.

Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities

STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO:

Expect faculty to demonstrate the stated ethical principles established for the program which are based upon belief in the dignity, worth, and potentialities of each student.

Access to the course and program requirements and policies governing student admission, progression, and graduation.

Channels for administrative decision-making in the Department of Nursing and the University and to participate in decision making which affects students.

Democratically elect representatives to the Nursing Faculty Organization for the purpose of representation of the student constituency in the decision-making process.

Participate in curriculum development.

Curriculum and teaching strategies which facilitate learning.

Accurate information about course and program requirements at the onset of enrollment.

Opportunity to explore topics of special interest within program and course objectives.

Faculty facilitation of opportunity for involvement in professional organizations and activities

Fair and impartial evaluation by faculty based on the stated objectives of the course, level, and the total program.

Participate in program evaluation.

A grievance procedure for adjudication of individual student grievances.

Scheduling of courses, within the resources of the program, which facilitates progression through the program of study for the majority of students.

Participate in university-wide activities – student government, cultural, social, religious, scholarly, recreational, and professional.

Access to student support services offered by the university.

STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO:

Demonstrate ethical principles in meeting course or program requirements, in professional relationships, and in peer and faculty relationships.

Be knowledgeable about program requirements and policies, assume responsibility for meeting the requirements, and abide by the policies.

Utilize appropriate channels for participation in decision-making and in the resolution of issues or problems.

Participate in the elective process and assist in bringing concerns of the student constituency to the attention of the faculty and to report discussion/action taken.

Constructively share ideas and reactions to the curriculum in formal meetings or less formal deliberation.

Maximize learning opportunities provided, transfer previous learning, and consider new ideas or relationships.

Actively participate in class discussion and other learning experiences, follow through with assignments, and share experiences with peers.

Conduct independent study and research in a way which maximizes the learning opportunity.

Participate, to the extent life circumstance permits, in professional organizations and activities.

Evaluate self in relation to course, level, program objectives, and the American Nurses' Association Standards of Practice.

Be fair and impartial in evaluating peers in relation to learning experience or course objectives and in evaluating faculty and courses.

Follow the grievance procedure as published.

Undertake a realistic class load in view of work and family responsibilities and reasonably adjust individual schedules to meet the needs of the majority.

Read student publications and posted notices in order to be aware of opportunities for involvement in university activities and to participate to the extent life circumstance permits.

Be knowledgeable, through the catalog and student handbook, of the resources available within the university.

General Information

ONLINE COURSE WITHDRAWALS

Students who are considering withdrawing from Briar Cliff University are asked to contact their academic advisor. Once a decision is made to withdraw from the university, an official form needs to be completed. Especially important to students is a formal exit interview with the Financial Aid Office to prevent problems in applying for state or federal financial aid at another institution.

FINANCIAL AID

Assistance may be applied for by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and listing Briar Cliff University's Title IV School Code 001846. This allows students the opportunity to be considered for federal financial aid. The federal financial aid programs BCU has available to students include:

Federal Stafford Loan
Federal Perkins Loan
Federal Work Study

Guidance for applying for graduate-specific grants and scholarships is available from the Program Director or Advisor. Students who have questions regarding the financial aid process can contact the Department of Financial Aid at 1-800-662-3303, ext. 5239 or 712-279-5239 or email studentfinacialservices@briarcliff.edu

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts can be obtained from the Registrar's Office (provided all financial obligations to the university have been met) by completing the "Request for Transcript" form and paying the appropriate fee.

GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES

Bishop Mueller Library
Office of Admissions
Office of the Registrar
University Bookstore (electronic)
IT Support Services
Compass

HEALTH SERVICES

The Health and Counseling Center includes the services of licensed nursing staff and a mental health counselor. The center provides basic services at no cost, however, minimal charges maybe incurred for diagnostic testing, immunizations, and TB screenings. Students will be encouraged to become proactive and responsible for their health management. The center will assist them in developing a healthy lifestyle which will ultimately contribute to their personal success. Students needing the assistance of the Health and Counseling Center are encouraged to visit the walk-in clinic; however, students seeking the help of the counselor are encouraged to make an appointment.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Students enrolled at Briar Cliff University are expected to carry a current student identification card. The card is the official university identification and may be used to gain admission to Briar Cliff University activities and facilities.

Alteration of a Briar Cliff University identification card, except by university officials, is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

All students are held responsible for all uses of their card until its loss is reported in writing to the Registrar's office. There will be a charge for replacing the card.

Lending this card or failure to present it when requested by authorized university personnel, i.e., student leaders, faculty members, or official members of the university staff, is in violation of university regulations and will result in disciplinary or legal action.

PARKING

For safety and security reasons, all cars parked on Briar Cliff property must have a valid parking permit. This includes students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Parking permits must be obtained from the Security Office (Ground Floor, Heelan Hall, 279-5430) at the time of orientation.

The responsibility of finding authorized parking spaces rests with the motor vehicle operator. Lack of a parking space, mechanical problems, or other disabilities are not considered valid excuses for failure to comply with these regulations.

Continuous violations of parking regulations as well as student vehicles found unregistered may result in referral by campus security for university disciplinary action. Frequent parking violators will be subject to towing or the application of the Denver Lock (boot) to their vehicle. The Security Office reserves the right to utilize these measures when deemed appropriate.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), a federal law, provides that students in post-secondary institutions be extended the right to inspect and review records, files, documents, and other materials which contain information directly related to them. The law specifically denies access to such confidential records to all other parties without the written consent of the student, except under limited and specific circumstances.

Briar Cliff University is in full compliance with the federal law pertaining to student records. A complete statement of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is available in the Office of Student Development.

Immunizations and health records may be shared with clinical sites as needed for practicum experiences.

TITLE IX EDUCATIONAL ACT:

Course faculty have a mandatory reporting responsibility under the Title IX Educational Act of 1972 which prohibits violence, harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender. For the sake of Briar Cliff University's students' safety and welfare, faculty are required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that occurs on Briar Cliff

University's campus or within online courses with the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinators.

The Briar Cliff University Sexual Violence and Harassment policy and information pertaining to on-campus confidential resources, reporting to University officials, and additional off-campus resources can be found at: http://www.briarcliff.edu/legal-and-consumer/sexual-abuse,-assault-and-title-ix-procedures/

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against because of sex or gender, the following resources are available:

On Campus Confidential Resources:
Director of Counseling Services: Therese Copple therese.copple@briarcliff.edu (712) 279-5433
Director of Health Services: Jacki Volz jacki.volz@briarcliff.edu (712) 279-5436
Campus Ministry Director: Michael Horka Michael.horka@briarcliff.edu

Reporting to University Officials / Title IX Resources:
Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Daniel Jung Daniel.jung@briarcliff.edu (712)279-5210
Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Dave Arens david.arens@briarcliff.edu (712) 279-1715
Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Cyndi Hanson Cyndi.Hanson@briarcliff.edu (712) 279-1633
Security Department: (712) 898-1888

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB):

Graduate students may be required to participate in research involving human subjects, and faculty members are encouraged to make learning opportunities in research or service available to students outside of class. The student's involvement must be clearly outlined prior to the student being involved. Proposals should be submitted to the student's primary project advisor by a designated date. If human subjects are involved in the project, the application must be sent to the appropriate Human Subjects Committee for approval. Data collection using human subjects cannot be initiated until approval from the committee has been received in writing. The project advisor will also help the student determine whether or not other approvals are necessary before data collection begins. Students who participate in any research involving human subjects are required to successfully complete CITI training and obtain informed consent from individuals (or their guardians) who participate as subjects in research.

Curriculum

MSN Curriculums – Nurse Practitioner

CORE COURSES		
NURS 501	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice	2 cr
NURS 510	Health Care Systems: Paradigms, Policy, and Ethics	3 cr
NURS 520	Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice	2 cr
NURS 529	Nursing Research	3 cr
NURS 570	Advanced Pharmacology	3 cr
NURS 550	Advanced Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing	3 cr

NURS 631	Advanced Health Assessment	4 cr
NURS 632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (Required for AGNP/FNP ONLY)	1 cr
NURS 621	Evidence Based Practice I	2 cr
NURS 622	Evidence Based Practice II	1 cr
NURS 624	Evidence Based Practice III	1 cr
NURS 675	Cultural Competence in Healthcare	3 cr
NURS 760	Population Health: Disease Prevention and Management	2 cr

FNP COURSES

NURS 711	Pediatric Primary Care I	2 cr
NURS 712	Pediatric Primary Care II	4 cr
NURS 715	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client I	6 cr
NURS 730	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client II	6 cr
NURS 746	FNP Practicum I	4 cr
NURS 747	FNP Practicum II	4.5 cr

AGPCNP COURSES

NURS 715	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client I	6 cr
NURS 730	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client II	6 cr
NURS 756	AGNP Practicum I	4 cr
NURS 758	AGNP Practicum II	4.5 cr
NURS 759	Care of the Frail Elder	3 cr

PMHNP COURSES

NURS 617	Therapeutic Modalities for APNs	6 cr
NURS 647	Neuroscience of Psychopharmacology for APNs	3 cr
NURS 717	Adv. Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) Nursing with Adult	5 cr
NURS 727	Adv. PMH Nursing with Children, Adolescents, and Older Adults	6.5 cr
NURS 767	Practicum in PMH Advanced Practice Nursing	5 cr

NOTE

- Practicum: 1 credit = 60 hours practicum
- Faculty/student ratio in practicum will not exceed 1:8 for clinical courses

Post-graduate APRN Certificate Curriculums

CORE COURSES

NURS 570	Advanced Pharmacology (if needed)	3 cr
NURS 550	Advanced Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing (if needed)	3 cr
NURS 631	Advanced Health Assessment (if needed)	4 cr
NURS 632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (if needed: AGNP/FNP Only)	1 cr

FNP COURSES

NURS 711	Pediatric Primary Care I	2 cr
NURS 712	Pediatric Primary Care II	4 cr
NURS 715	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client I	6 cr
NURS 730	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client II	6 cr
NURS 746	FNP Practicum I	4 cr
NURS 747	FNP Practicum II	4.5 cr

AGPCNP COURSES

NURS 715	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client I	6 cr
NURS 730	Primary Care of Adult/Gerontology Client II	6 cr
NURS 756	AGNP Practicum I	4 cr
NURS 758	AGNP Practicum II	4.5 cr
NURS 759	Care of the Frail Elder	3 cr

PMHNP COURSES

NURS 617	Therapeutic Modalities for APNs	6 cr
NURS 647	Neuroscience of Psychopharmacology for APNs	3 cr
NURS 717	Adv. Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) Nursing with Adult	5 cr
NURS 727	Adv. PMH Nursing with Children, Adolescents, and Older Adults	6.5 cr
NURS 767	Practicum in PMH Advanced Practice Nursing	5 cr

DNP Program Curriculum

NURS 675: Cultural Competence in Health Care	3 cr
NURS 800: Epidemiology and Population Health	4 cr
NURS 820: Financial Management for Health Care Organizations	4 cr
NURS 810: Information Technology for EBP	4 cr
NURS 840: Philosophy and Theory for Advanced Practice Nursing	3 cr
NURS 880: Professional Ethics for Health Care Leaders	3 cr
NURS 846: Translational Research & Evidence Based Practice Initiative	5 cr
NURS 890: Leadership in Complex Health Care Organizations	4 cr
NURS 856: Evidence Based Practice Initiative II	2 cr
NURS 866: Evidence Based Practice Initiative III	2 cr
NURS 876: Evidence Based Practice Initiative IV	2 cr

Oral Comprehensive Policy

MSN ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION POLICY

The oral comprehensive examination is the final requirement for graduation in the MSN program. The EBP initiative requires that students integrate research into a practice-based initiative and includes the oral presentation of the initiative.

The Oral Comp is presented to an audience of at minimum three faculty. Students are informed of the results of the evaluation of the oral comp upon completion of the evaluation, which takes place immediately after the presentation.

The Graduate Program Director provides students who are unsuccessful in meeting the expectations for the oral comp with a written summary of comments from the evaluators. Students who are unsuccessful on their initial attempt will have the opportunity to complete their presentation one time. Students who are unsuccessful on the second attempt will be dismissed from the program. Students who successfully pass the evaluation of their presentation will not receive a written summary.

Family Nurse Practitioner
Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Year 1	501	Theoretical Foundations for Adv. Prac, LIBS 501	2	8 wk		529	Research Methods for APN	3	16 wk		631	Advanced Health Assessment + Lab (Hybrid)	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
	520	Foundations of Adv. Prac,	2	8 wk		570	Adv. Pharm	3	16 wk		675	Cultural Competence in Health Care	3 (3:0)	12 wk	
	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk		760	Population Health	2	8 wk						
	Credits		7			Credits		8			Credits		7		
Year 2	715	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client I	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	730	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client II	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	621	EBP I	2	12 wk	
	510	Health Care Systems	3	8 wk		711	Pediatric Primary Care I (FNP Only)	2	16 wk		712	Pediatric Primary Care II (FNP Only)	4 (2:2)	12 wk	**120**
											632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (Hybrid)	1 (0:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		9			Credits		8			Credits		7		
Year 3	622	EBP II	1	16 wk		624	EBP III	1	16 wk						
	746	Practicum (FNP only)	4 (1:3)	16 wk	**180**	747	FNP Practicum (FNP only)	4.5 (1:3.5)	16 wk	**210**	**FNP –56.5 credits** **Minimum Clinical hours –750** ***Indicated Onsite Lab Day Requirements**				
	720	Women's Health Elective	1	16 wk	**Optional**										
	Credits		5			Credits		5.5							

Adult/Gero Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Year 1	501	Theoretical Foundations for Adv. Prac. LIBS 501	2	8 wk		529	Research Methods for APN	3	16 wk		631	Advanced Health Assessment + Lab (Hybrid)	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
	520	Foundations of Adv. Prac.	2	8 wk		570	Adv. Pharm	3	16 wk		675	Cultural Competence in Health Care	3 (3:0)	12 wk	
	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk		760	Population Health	2	8 wk						
	Credits		7			Credits		8			Credits		7		
Year 2	715	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client I	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	730	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client II	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	621	EBP I	2	12 wk	
	510	Health Care Systems	3	8 wk							759	The Care of the Frail Elder (A/GNP only)	3 (1:2)	12 wk	**120**
											632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (Hybrid)	1 (0:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		9			Credits		6			Credits		6		
Year 3	622	EBP II	1	16 wk		624	EBP III	1	16 wk						
	756	A/GNP Practicum (A/GNP only)	4 (1:3)	16 wk	**180**	758	A/GNP Practicum (A/GNP only)	4.5 (1:3.5)	16 wk	**210**	**AGNP –53.5 credits** **Minimum Clinical hours –750** ***Indicated Onsite Lab Day Requirements**				
	XXX	Women's Health Elective	?	16 wk											
	Credits		5			Credits		5.5							

Revised 11/17/2023

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Year 1	501	Theoretical Foundations for Adv. Prac, LIBS 501	2	8 wk		529	Research Methods for APN	3	16 wk		631	Advanced Health Assessment + Lab	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
	520	Foundations of Adv. Prac,	2	8 wk		**570**	**Advanced Pharmacology**	**3**	**16 wk**		675	Cultural Competence in Healthcare	3 (3:0)	12 wk	
	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk		760	Population Health	2	8 wk						
	Credits		7			Credits		8			Credits		7		
Year 2	647	Neuroscience of Psychopharma-cology for Advanced Practice Nursing	3	16 wk	0	617	Therapeutic Modalities for Advanced Practice Nursing	6 (3:3)	16 wk	**180**	717	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults	5 (3:2)	12 wk	**120**
	510	Health Care Systems	3	8 wk							621	EBP I	2	12 wk	
	Credits		6			Credits		6			Credits		7		
Year 3	727	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children, Adolescents, and Older Adults	6.5 (3:3.5)	16 wk	**210**	767	Practicum in Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nursing	5 (1:4)	16 wk	**240**					
	622	EBPII	1	16 wk		624	EBP III	1	16 wk		**PMHNP – 54.5** **Clinical hours – 750** *** Indicates Onsite Requirement**				
	Credits		7.5			Credits		6							

Post-Graduate APRN AGPCNP- Certificate Programs
Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Pre-Req	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk		570	Adv. Pharm	3	16 wk		631	Advanced Health Assessment + Lab (Hybrid)	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		3			Credits		3			Credits		4		
Year 1	715	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client I	6 (4:2)	16	**120**	730	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client II	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	759	Care of the Frail Elder (A/GNP only)	3 (1:2)	12 wk	**120**
											632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (Hybrid)	1 (0:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		6			Credits		6			Credits		4		
	756	A/GNP Practicum (A/GNP only)	4 (1:3)	16 wk	**180**	758	A/GNP Practicum (A/GNP only)	4.5 (1:3.5)	16 wk	**210**	**AGNP – credits + 3Ps courses if needed Credits – 24.5 Clinical hours – 540-750 depending on NP experience *Indicated Onsite Lab Day Requirements**				
	Credits		4			Credits		4.5							

Post-Graduate APRN FNP- Certificate Programs
Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Pre-Req	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk		570	Adv. Pharm	3	16 wk		631	Advanced Health Assessment + Lab (Hybrid)	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		3			Credits		3			Credits		4		
Year 1	715	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client I	6 (4:2)	16	**120**	730	Primary Care Adult/Gero Client II	6 (4:2)	16 wk	**120**	712	Pediatric Primary Care II (FNP Only)	4 (2:2)	12 wk	**120**
						711	Pediatric Primary Care I (FNP Only)	2	16 wk		632	Advanced Practice Skills Lab (Hybrid)	1 (0:1)	12 wk	*
	Credits		6			Credits		8			Credits		5		
Year 2	746	Practicum (FNP only)	4 (1:3)	16 wk	**180**	747	FNP Practicum (FNP only)	4.5 (1:3.5)	16 wk	**210**					
	Credits		4			Credits		4.5			**FNP –27.5 credits + 3Ps courses if needed Credits – 27.5**				
											Clinical hours – 540-750 depending on NP experience				
											***Indicated Onsite Lab Day Requirements**				

Post-Graduate APRN PMHNP - Certificate Program
Effective Fall 2026

Year	FALL					SPRING					SUMMER				
Pre-Req Courses	550	Advanced Patho	3	16 wk	**0**	570	Advanced Pharm	3	16 wk	**0**	631	Advanced Health Assessment (Hybrid)	4 (3:1)	12 wk	*
Year 1	647	Neuroscience of Psychopharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing	3	16 wk	**0**	617	Therapeutic Modalities for Advanced Practice Nursing	6 (3:3)	16 wk	**180**	717	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults	5 (3:2)	12 wk	**120**
	Credits		3			Credits		6			Credits		5		
Year 2	727	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children, Adolescents, and Older Adults	6.5 (3:3.5)	16 wk	**210**	767	Practicum in Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nursing	5 (1:4)	16 wk	**240**					
	Credits		6.5			Credits		5							

PMHNP
Total credits – 25.5
Total Clinical Hours -540-750 depending on NP practice experience
***Indicated Onsite Lab Day Requirements**

Briar Cliff University
Department of Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice Curriculum

Fall 2026

Summer I	Fall I	Spring I
NURS 675 Cultural Competence in Health Care (3 cr; 3:0) *NURS 880 Professional Ethics for Health Care Leaders (3 cr; 3:0) Odd years	NURS 840 Philosophy and Theory for Advanced Practice Nursing (3 cr; 3:0) with LIBS 501 *NURS 800 Epidemiology and Population Health (4 cr; 3:1) Odd years	NURS 846 Translational Research and DNP EBP I (5 cr; 4:1) *NURS 890 Leadership in Complex Health Care Organizations (4 cr; 3:1) Odd years
Summer II	**Fall II**	**Spring II**
NURS 856 DNP EBP II (2 cr; 1:1) *NURS 820 Financial Management for Health Care Organizations (4 cr; 3:1) Even years	NURS 866 DNP EBP III (2 cr; 1:1) *NURS 810 Information Technology for EBP (4 cr; 3:1) Even years	NURS 876 DNP EBP IV (2 cr; 1:1)
		Total Credits: 36 Total Practicum Hours: 480 hours

* non sequential courses