

NEXus Cluster Descriptions

Below are the descriptions for cluster groups. Courses are placed into clusters by topic area. Cluster groupings are regularly reviewed by a panel of faculty who specialize in that particular topic area. Some courses may be open to both PhD and DNP students. The NEXus catalog course details identify whom the courses are open to: PhD Only, DNP Only, or Open to both PhD and DNP.

<p>1. <u>Nursing Education</u></p>	<p>This cluster provides the student with information on current issues, the teaching role, and pedagogy in nursing.</p>
<p>2. <u>Diverse and Vulnerable Populations</u></p>	<p>This cluster focuses on three areas: (1) substantive theory about health equity and the social determinants of health; (2) effective methods for conducting ethical, culturally sensitive research with diverse and vulnerable populations; and (3) translation of research into practice settings to address health disparities through safe, effective care for diverse, at-risk, and marginalized communities and populations.</p>
<p>3. <u>Gerontology and Geriatric Nursing</u></p>	<p>This cluster provides theory, method, and substantive courses to support advanced nursing practice or research in psychosocial and biologic aging, health promotion for older adults, and the prevention and management of the diseases of aging.</p>
<p>4. <u>Chronic and Disabling Conditions and Palliative Care</u></p>	<p>This cluster contains courses with a focus on substantive theory and methods for conducting research with persons affected by chronic and disabling conditions and palliative care and/or a theoretical foundation for advanced health care of persons with chronic and disabling conditions and palliative care.</p>
<p>5. <u>Nursing Knowledge Development: Theory, Philosophy, and Science</u></p>	<p>This cluster provides students with a variety of courses that explore science, philosophy, and theory in the relationship of generating nursing knowledge.</p>
<p>6. <u>Systems, Leadership, Informatics and Policy</u></p>	<p>This cluster includes coursework related to nursing and health care systems, health services research, leadership of nursing organizations and innovations, nursing and health care informatics, and policy. Students are invited to take several courses in one of these areas or sample from several aspects of this broad view of nursing and health care delivery.</p>
<p>This is the DNP description but DNP Committee agreed to put courses in SLIP cluster. *</p>	<p>This cluster of courses addresses the functioning of health organizations and systems. Coursework in Informatics and use of information technology are included as well as business strategies and health care economics. Courses addressing health policy are included. Evaluation of programs, health systems, and quality of care are also included.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information and Technology b. Business and Health Finance c. Quality Improvement d. Program Evaluation e. Leadership f. Health Policy
7. <u>Scholarship and Writing</u>	This cluster provides opportunity to develop or enhance communication skills through scholarly writing with a focus in areas such as publication, grant writing and other related activities.
This is the DNP description but DNP Committee agreed to put courses in Scholarship and Writing cluster. *	<p>This cluster of courses addresses the scholarly activities involved in generation and integration of new knowledge, translating research into practice and critically applying and evaluating knowledge in complex clinical practice settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Qualitative b. Quantitative c. Evidence Based Practice d. Translation of Research into Practice e. Evaluating Practice Guidelines f. Outcomes Evaluation
8. <u>Research Methodology</u>	This cluster includes both basic and advanced courses in research including sub-clusters related to quantitative and qualitative focus, statistical design and analysis, and instrumentation.
a) <u>Quantitative Research Methods</u>	This sub-cluster supports quantitative research designs and methods, including comprehensive courses focused on principles of quantitative research, development of data-collection instruments and application of specific and advanced statistical design, testing, and analysis.
b) <u>Qualitative Research Methods</u>	This sub-cluster supports qualitative research, moving beyond a basic overview of qualitative principles, designs and methods. The cluster offers courses specific to a single qualitative design approach (e.g., phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, etc.), as well as courses focused on advanced qualitative data analysis and qualitative designs in the context of collaborative and mixed methods approaches.
c) <u>Mixed Methods</u>	This sub-cluster includes courses designed to integrate qualitative and quantitative methods to answer research questions. Qualitative and quantitative methods are viewed as being complimentary.
9. <u>Scientific Underpinnings</u>	This cluster of courses includes a broad array of courses that

<p><u>for Advanced Nursing Practice*</u></p>	<p>support advanced nursing practice. These graduate level courses include pathophysiology, pharmacology and physical (health) assessment. Coursework in epidemiology is included along with population science, health promotion and disease prevention strategies. Coursework in Genetics is included because of the expanding knowledge generated in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pathophysiology b. Pharmacology c. Physical Assessment d. Epidemiology e. Population Science f. Genetics/Genomics g. Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
<p>10. <u>Advance Nursing Practice*</u></p>	<p>This cluster provides theory, method, professional role and substantive courses to provide direct care as an advanced nursing practitioner within appropriate population foci.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Professional Roles/Issues b. Diagnosis & Management of Common Conditions c. Selected population management i.e. family, psychiatric/mental health
<p>11. <u>Ethics and Interprofessional Collaboration*</u></p>	<p>This cluster focuses on increasing awareness of the application of values and judgments as they apply to human health rights, health care decisions, and clinical care of patients and populations. Ethics related to confidentiality and privacy are also discussed in relation to research and other types of projects involving data collection for translation of research into practice, practice improvement and quality improvement. In addition, this cluster includes addresses learning of students from and with different professions during their professional training in order to promote collaborative work in their professional practice.</p>
<p>12. <u>Children, Parent, and Family</u></p>	<p>This cluster focuses on issues, methods and analysis of studying and intervening with parents, children and families. The three areas of major emphasis are: 1). Substantive theory about the health and development of children, parents and families; 2). Effective methods for conducting ethical, culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate research with children, parents and families; and 3). Translation or application of research into practice settings to address the health needs and optimize outcomes for children, parents and families.</p>

13. <u>Special Topics</u>	This cluster includes courses that are one-time special offerings or address temporary/hot topic issues.
14. <u>Non-Nursing Courses</u>	This cluster includes courses that may be taught in the physical sciences, the social sciences and humanities and have been approved by the faculty of nursing at a NEXus member school as acceptable for elective credits.

*denotes the DNP description and or DNP specific Cluster. <http://www.winnexus.org/?query=201>

Approved 10/6/2011, Updated 9/26/13