

## NEXus – The Nursing Education Xchange Guiding Principles

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The deans and directors of the Schools/Colleges of Nursing Doctoral programs that are members of, and collaborators in, the “NEXus – The Nursing Education Xchange” project have agreed, on behalf of their respective faculties, to the following principles and procedures in order to facilitate the development and delivery of inter-institutional graduate courses through their respective institutions. This document is not a legally binding agreement but rather a statement of operating principles to guide and facilitate cooperation between and among the member institutions. Failure of any institution to observe the principles set forth herein will not give rise to a claim for breach or damages by any signatory.

For the purposes of this document, the *NEXus* refers to the collaboration among the Doctoral programs in NEXus-designated Schools/Colleges of Nursing in their respective institutions, and the *home institution* refers to the institution to which students are admitted and from which the degrees are conferred (see *Appendix A.2*). The *teaching institution* refers to the institution providing the instruction. *Cluster*, for the purposes of this document, refers to a group of courses in a designated topic area. *Exchange courses* are individual offerings designated by the Academic Collaborators.

### **Principle 1:**

The participating Doctoral programs mutually respect the academic standards and quality of the accredited universities involved in this collaboration. Therefore:

- 1.1 Courses approved for delivery in this project will be exempt from transfer credit policies.
- 1.2 Faculty members who provide instruction in this project must carry appropriate faculty status at their home institution for teaching Doctoral courses. Students admitted as degree-seeking students by a NEXus home institution will be accepted by all other member institutions for enrollment in courses that are a part of the project. Student admission to a Doctoral program will be based on the criteria established at the home institution and its designated programs.
- 1.3. The teaching institution will determine the number of students admitted to an elective course.

### **Principle 2:**

The participating NEXus members recognize that the implementation of the NEXus project at each institution may best be accomplished using procedures and practices that are inherent to those respective institutions, therefore:

- 2.1 The NEXus project will include individual exchange courses.

- 2.2 Students in a NEXus-participating Doctoral program may enroll in NEXus courses through the home institution.
- 2.3 Each School/College of Nursing is responsible for obtaining initial approval and approval of any changes in the courses through the processes that are in place and required by their respective institutions, and for informing NEXus partners of these changes.
- 2.4 Each School/ College of Nursing, when serving as the home institution for a given student, will utilize the same deadlines and procedures as used for its other degree-seeking graduate students in areas not specifically addressed in this document. This would include, but not be limited to, the requirements for plans of study, approval of graduate committees, and participation in graduation.
- 2.5 Courses taken in the NEXus project will be recorded on a transcript by the home institution.

**Principle 3:**

The NEXus partners commit to minimizing the unique challenges and barriers for students that might otherwise occur in an inter-institutional distance education project. Therefore,

- 3.1 Each institution will facilitate the exchange of information relative to courses completed and grades earned consistent with federal regulations for the release of information.
- 3.2 A common database of student and course information will be established by the NEXus project to facilitate the transfer of student and course information between the home institution and the teaching institution.
- 3.3 The teaching institution will provide course management support.
- 3.4 The student's home institution will provide student services.
- 3.5 The teaching institution that is offering the course will provide access to academic resources (e.g., library resources, software).
- 3.6 Matriculated students from NEXus member institutions will have priority registration over students not matriculated in NEXus member institutions.

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