

**COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

**GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2013-2014**

## **Handbook Overview**

The Graduate Student handbook has been developed to provide information and guidance.

The Handbook contains policies and procedures related to the graduate nursing program. Additional policies and procedures are described in The University of Vermont Graduate Catalogue, the Cat's Tale, and official publications directed to students in the Department of Nursing, all graduate programs and the Graduate College. Students are held accountable for policies and procedures described in these official publications.

Students will be advised if any changes occur in the graduate program. For general announcements and messages, students should frequently check their UVM email account. Questions regarding policies and procedures should be directed to your advisor or Department Chair.

## **Disclosure Statement**

The Department of Nursing, subject to and consistent with the policies of The University of Vermont, reserves the right to make changes in course offerings and degree requirements as educational and financial considerations require. Students are responsible for staying abreast of current policies.

*Note: There is a separate handbook for students in the undergraduate program*

## **Department Contact Information**

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## **Department of Nursing Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Nursing reflects the mission of the University. The University mission, "...is to create and share knowledge. UVM prepares its students to live productive, responsible, and creative lives through a high quality liberal education. As a research university, UVM endorses the intrinsic value of the creation of new knowledge and promotes the application of relevant knowledge to benefit the State of Vermont and society as a whole. As a research university, UVM is distinguished by the comprehensiveness of its academic mission, its range of graduate and undergraduate programs and its commitment to research-based lifelong learning. As a community of scholars, students, both undergraduate and graduate, are involved in the generation of knowledge. As a member of its local and global community, the University has an obligation to share its knowledge, to assist with relevant applications of that knowledge, and to understand and respond to a changing and diverse world" (UVM Catalogue, online at [www.uvm.edu/catalogue](http://www.uvm.edu/catalogue)).

The mission of the Department of Nursing is derived from its philosophy and it reflects the faculty's assessment of current and projected health needs of people everywhere and the role of the nursing profession in meeting these needs. The Department of Nursing's mission is: 1) to prepare qualified individuals for professional and advanced nursing practice, 2) to improve the quality of nursing education and service, and 3) to improve the quality of health and health care.

The Department of Nursing carries out its mission of preparing qualified individuals for professional and advanced nursing practice by offering the following educational programs.

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing. This program is designed to prepare individuals for entry level professional nursing practice. Professional nursing practice focuses on meeting the existing and potential health needs of individuals or groups at any level of well-being.
2. A master's degree in nursing. This program is designed to prepare nurses for advanced professional nursing practice. Advanced nursing practice as described by Conley (1978) denotes expanded knowledge and skill in a specialized area of clinical nursing, scientific inquiry, contribution to improvement of health care delivery and contribution to the advancement of the nursing profession.
3. A post-master's certificate in primary care or psychiatric-mental health nursing. This program prepares advanced practice nurses for the role of a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist.

The Department carries out its mission of improving the quality of nursing education and service through the following activities:

1. research and scholarly activities which contribute to the development of clinical practice, nursing education, and the further development of the science of nursing;
2. outreach to the community;
3. participation in local, state, regional, and national nursing organizations;
4. provision of consultation to agencies providing nursing care and nursing education;

The Department carries out its mission of improving the quality of health and health care through the following activities:

1. preparing qualified individuals for nursing practice at entry and graduate levels;
2. undertaking research and scholarly activities which contribute to the improvement of health care;
3. participation in the activities of health related organizations;
4. educating consumers of health care;

Conley, V. (1978). Philosophy, objectives and conceptual framework for a master's program in nursing. In National League for Nursing, Developing a Master's Program in Nursing (pp. 11-24). NY: National League for Nursing.

Approved - 1/11/79 Revised - 11/4/81, 9/1/81, 1/7/82, 8/27/85, 1/11/90, 8/96, 3/97, 6/98, 6/01, 7/02, 6/10

## **Philosophy of the Department of Nursing**

University of Vermont

Our goal is to enhance the health of a complex pluralistic society through research and the preparation of exemplary practitioners. As a faculty we believe learning, discovery, and engagement are life-long processes. Nursing practice evolves in response to the health needs of a global society and transcends cultural and national boundaries. Health is a dynamic process that involves the interplay of individuals, families, and communities with their environments—economic, social, political, built, and natural—and is filtered through and shaped by health values and beliefs. Health values, in turn, are influenced by personal, spiritual, cultural, and societal beliefs and practices.

Updated 6/2010

## **Communications**

### **Email**

All students will have an UVM email account. This is the major mode of communication utilized by faculty and staff in the department. Students are expected to use their UVM email account for all UVM correspondence. Failure to read emails sent from faculty/staff, MLRS Department, CNHS, or UVM does not excuse students from adhering to deadlines, assignments, requests, etc.

### **Graduate Student List Serv**

This is an electronic list serve for graduate nursing students and is maintained by the graduate program staff. Students are automatically added when they are admitted and removed when they graduate. It is a means for communication among the students and to receive pertinent information. Faculty cannot access this listserv. Your UVM email is the method of communication between faculty and students. It is your responsibility to check your UVM email regularly.

### **Academic Calendar**

The Academic Calendar can be found at the following website:

[http://www.uvm.edu/academics/?Page=http://www.uvm.edu/~rgweb/importantdates/i\\_academiccalendars.html](http://www.uvm.edu/academics/?Page=http://www.uvm.edu/~rgweb/importantdates/i_academiccalendars.html)

### **Lockers**

Graduate nursing students may use the lockers located on the ground level of Rowell. Students may “reserve” a locker simply by placing a lock on the locker. Lockers must be completely emptied at the end of the spring semester every year. Items remaining in lockers after the last day of classes will be discarded.

## **The Graduate Program in Nursing**

### **Introduction**

The faculty believes that graduate education in nursing is characterized by intellectual inquiry and critical analysis focused on theory, practice, and research in preparation for advanced nursing practice. The faculty strives to provide an environment which responds to individual learning needs.

The graduate program in nursing at The University of Vermont prepares professional nurses to assume leadership roles within the discipline of nursing, to expand nursing knowledge, and to develop expertise in a specialized area of nursing. The program also provides the foundation for doctoral study and continued professional development.

### **Program Terminal Objectives**

Graduates of the program are able to:

1. make clinical and organizational decisions to change and improve practice by critically evaluating research and clinical evidence.
2. enhance quality of care through use of information technologies.
3. contribute to the improvement of health care delivery using knowledge of policy, organizational structure and behavior, and health care financing.
4. incorporate personal, organizational and societal perspectives into ethical decision-making.
5. contribute to the profession of nursing and to the delivery of health care through competent application of roles inherent in master's prepared/advanced practice nursing.
6. assume accountability for the quality of one's own professional practice.
7. incorporate relevant theories from nursing and other related disciplines into one's own practice based upon critical evaluation of their relevance and utility.
8. provide culturally competent health care for individuals, families, and populations based on an understanding of the impact of diversity, culture, and society on health status and decisions.
9. promote health and disease prevention in individuals, families, and populations by critically examining evidence and relevant theoretical models.

Approved Graduate Education Committee 4/21/05.



### **Academic Advisement and Advising Resources**

Upon admission each student is assigned a faculty advisor to assist in program planning. An advisor may be changed at the discretion of the chair, the faculty member or the student. Requests for change of advisor should be made to the Graduate Program Assistant.

Advisement is the responsibility of both the student and faculty. Students are encouraged to initiate a meeting with their advisor each semester to discuss progression and graduation requirements, changes in courses, and for guidance in elective course selection as needed. In addition, students can seek advice from their advisors regarding personal issues/stressors that are negatively impacting course work. Advisors are available either during scheduled office hours or by appointment throughout the academic year to discuss issues or questions advisees may have.

The *Learning Cooperative* represents an additional advising resource. The Learning Co-op supplements the academic environment by providing developmental instruction in writing, reading, and study skills. As well, the Co-op maintains a campus-wide tutoring program. An appointment can be made by calling 656-4075.

Additional advising resources are described in the UVM Online Catalogue, online at:

<http://www.uvm.edu/academics/catalogue2012-13/>

### **Classroom Code of Conduct**

Faculty and students will at all times conduct themselves in a manner that serves to maintain, promote, and enhance the high quality academic environment befitting The University of Vermont. To this end, it is expected that all members of the learning community will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Faculty and students will attend all regularly scheduled classes, except for those occasions warranting an excused absence under the policy detailed in the catalogue (e.g., religious, athletic and medical).
2. Students and faculty will arrive prepared for class and on time, and they will remain in class until the class is dismissed.
3. Faculty and students will treat all members of the learning community with respect. Toward this end they will promote academic discourse and the free exchange of ideas by listening with civil attention to comments made by all individuals.
4. Students and faculty will maintain an appropriate academic climate by refraining from all actions which disrupt the learning environment (e.g., making noise, cell phones ringing, ostentatiously not paying attention, and leaving and re-entering the classroom inappropriately).

### **Note-Taking Policy**

On November 10, 1999, the Faculty Senate adopted the following motion to be effective spring semester 2000: The taking of notes during a scheduled class of a scheduled University of Vermont course for the purpose of selling the notes or other commercial purpose is prohibited without the express written permission of the professor(s) who teach the course.

### **Code of Academic Integrity**

Please refer to: <http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

## **Overview of the Curriculum for the Graduate Program**

The Master of Science degree is awarded upon successful completion of track requirements through full or part time study. The major components of the graduate curriculum are designated as core courses, track courses, electives, and a project or thesis. The core courses emphasize nursing theory, nursing research, epidemiology, the role of the advanced practice nurse, and current issues in nursing and healthcare. At present, track courses focus either on psychiatric-mental health nursing, clinical systems management, or primary health care nursing.

Electives may be non-nursing or nursing graduate courses. Consideration of non-nursing electives is encouraged as it provides the student with additional opportunities to study with students in other disciplines.

The comprehensive examination is a University requirement. The examination provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the core content of the program (see Master's Project pages 9-10 for guidelines).

Students may choose to complete either a thesis or a project. The culminating experience for the student choosing the thesis is to conduct a research-related activity with faculty supervision. The culminating experience for the student choosing the master's project is to develop and implement a project in a health care related setting

A post-master's certificate is offered in the primary health care nursing track and the psychiatric-mental track. This option is available to nurses who hold a master's degree in nursing.

A master's program for certificate-prepared advanced practice nurses such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists, who wish to complete a Master of Science degree, is also available. The program builds upon the existing knowledge and skills of advanced practice nurses and expands education in the area of nursing issues, theory and research in the health care environment, and population-based health care delivery. Graduate education in nursing prepares leaders in advanced practice roles.

Many of the major nursing courses have both a theoretical and a laboratory or practicum component. Credit allocation for class, laboratory, and practicum components of courses is described below:

Students starting clinical/practicum <b>Spring 2011</b> or thereafter	One credit is equivalent to 1 class hour/week. One credit is equivalent to 2 laboratory hours/week. One credit is equivalent to 120 hours/semester.
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## **Links to Graduate Program Curriculum**

### **Master's Entry Program in Nursing**

[http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=masters\\_entry.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=masters_entry.html)

### **Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health**

<http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=psychiatric.html>

### **Adult Nurse Practitioner**

<http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=np.html>

### **Family Nurse Practitioner**

[http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=family\\_np.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=family_np.html)

### **Post-Master's Certificate Programs**

[http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=post\\_masters.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=post_masters.html)

## **APA Format Guidelines**

The American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines are used for the preparation of all papers required for GRNU courses unless otherwise specified by the professor. Students should purchase the

current edition of *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Washington, DC, at the beginning of their graduate studies.

### **Practicum Experiences**

The majority of your track (ANP, FNP, and PMHNP) courses have both a theoretical and practicum component. These practicum experiences may be located throughout the state of Vermont or in other select states at student request. Students are expected to have at least one rotation at a rural site outside of Chittenden County. As well, it should be noted that some practicum experiences may occur during the evening hours or weekends. Inherent in practicum experiences is the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Students should maintain at a minimum, standard precautions in all settings to minimize the likelihood of occurrence. Satisfactory completion of practicum objectives is required prior to progression in the program.

### **Student Mandatories**

As a CNHS graduate student, you are required to complete the CNHS Mandatories, prior to matriculating into your program. Students must keep these requirements current throughout their program. Additionally, students need to provide copies of these mandatories for their student files. Since each clinical site has different requirements, it is essential to be compliant with this process. As a graduate student, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are up to date with all pre-clinical requirements (example: making sure that your CPR certification is current). Aside from being required before clinical experiences, the CNHS Mandatories keep you healthy and safe for your future profession.

Complete details on CNHS Mandatories are online at:

[http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/?Page=student\\_services/gradmandatories.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/?Page=student_services/gradmandatories.html)

The immunization and serology work takes time. You may need a booster and you may need to re-titer. Allow yourself ample time to complete this process and schedule your health care provider appointments by planning ahead.

### **Confidentiality**

All clients have a right to confidentiality regarding their health status and their interactions within the health care system. Students must engage in professionally responsible communication in practicum and classroom settings. When presenting cases or using an example from your practicum experience to express a concept, you are to maintain the confidentiality of your clients and not disclose any identifying information.

### **Health Insurance**

The University does not pay medical costs resulting from injury during practicum rotations or other curricular activity unless this injury is due to negligence of the University. All nursing students should carry their own health insurance.

## Attire

Graduate students should be cognizant of the fact that they are representing the nursing profession and The University of Vermont Department of Nursing while engaging in practicum experiences. With this in mind, students are asked to present a professional appearance and demeanor. A UVM name tag indicating your student role is to be worn in all clinical and laboratory settings. Students' names are given to the UVM Bookstore and name tags are ordered after students pre-pay for them.

MEPN Pre-licensure Year:

- When providing patient care:
  - Wine colored scrubs with UVM patch sewn on left sleeve
  - Neutral colored hosiery
  - Closed toe and heel white shoes (may wear white sneakers)
  - Plain white, black or wine colored short sleeved T-shirt
  - UVM name tag
  - White or wine colored "warm-up jacket" with UVM patch sewn on left sleeve or white lab coat with UVM patch sewn on left sleeve
  - No visible tattoos
  - Long hair pulled back
  - Jewelry
    - One ring/hand
    - One post earring/ear
    - No nose, lip or facial piercings
    - Watch with second hand
- Non-direct care experiences:
  - Business casual attire (no jeans, short skirts, t-shirts with logos or low necklines)
  - Coordinating hosiery
  - Closed toe and heel shoes
  - Knee length white lab coat with UVM patch sewn on left arm
  - UVM name tag
  - No visible tattoos
  - Jewelry
    - One ring/hand
    - One post earring/ear
    - No nose, lip or facial piercings
    - Watch with second hand

## **Candidacy Requirements**

Acceptance to candidacy for the degree is granted to those students who have met all prerequisites for the graduate degree program and all of the Department of Nursing requirements for candidacy. Under most circumstances, meeting the requirements for admission will allow advancement to candidacy. Students who appear to be marginal in meeting admission requirements may be required to complete selected course work before acceptance as a degree candidate.

## **Graduation Requirements**

The minimum requirements for the Master of Science program are successful completion of:

- Core, track, and elective courses
- The comprehensive examination
- Master's thesis or master's project

The maximum time limit for completion of the master's degree is 5 years from the date of matriculation.

The minimum requirement for the post master's certificate is satisfactory completion of designated track courses and practicum/clinical hours.

## **Department of Nursing Graduate Grading Policy** (effective 1/1/2013)

1. Students are expected to earn a final grade of B or better in the course. If a student earns two grades of B-, or any grade lower than a B-, it is grounds for dismissal.
2. Students are required to earn a satisfactory grade in clinical. An unsatisfactory grade in a clinical course is grounds for dismissal.

## **Department of Nursing Graduate Completion Policy** (effective 8/30/2013)

1. In order to graduate, all program requirements must be met within one academic semester of completion of final practicum.

## **Graduate College**

<http://www.uvm.edu/~gradcoll/>

**Please refer to the Graduate College for important information on different policies applicable to Graduate Students including (but not limited to) grading policy, leaves of absence and rights and responsibilities of graduate students.**

## **Comprehensive Examination**

The Comprehensive Examination is conducted by the Graduate Program in the Department of Nursing. The examination is designed to allow the student to demonstrate analysis<sup>1</sup> and synthesis<sup>2</sup> of knowledge gained through the program. Students may take the examination any time after the core courses have been successfully completed. The Comprehensive Exam must be completed prior to the final track courses and practicums.

Students will be expected to respond orally to specific questions provided to the student two weeks prior to the exam date. Questions will be formulated by the student's thesis/project committee or Graduate Faculty on the Comprehensive Exam Committee. The student can expect questions related to:

- Research and relationships to evidence-base practice; research utilization.
- Relationship of nursing theory to nursing research and practice.
- Role dimensions and core characteristics of advanced practice nurses.
- Health care policy and role of the APRN.

Students will provide evidence of written preparation of responses to the Comprehensive Exam questions at the time of the defense. Written preparation may include but is not limited to:

- Written notes
- Power Point presentation
- Bulleted outline
- APA formatted reference list of citations used during the exam

### **Criteria for Evaluation**

The Comprehensive Examination is rated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Satisfactory performance requires that in response to the questions, the student demonstrates analysis and synthesis of content addressed throughout the program of study by:

- (1) addressing fundamental nursing issues with evidence of original arguments and critical judgments, including demonstration of analysis and synthesis;
- (2) identifying dominant themes of the content;
- (3) distinguishing relevant from extraneous material;
- (4) addressing implications for nursing practice, including specialty area;
- (5) identifying conclusions and supporting rationale;
- (6) integrating concepts from your program of study, including core and advanced clinical practice specialty courses, in response to the examination questions;
- (7) organizing and presenting your thinking in a clear and logically consistent manner;
- (8) appropriate and sufficient number of citations and references.

If the Comprehensive Examination is unsatisfactory, the student will have two weeks to formulate a written response to the original questions. Only one re-examination will be allowed (UVM Graduate College Catalogue, online at [www.uvm.edu/catalogue](http://www.uvm.edu/catalogue)). A satisfactory grade for passing the written re-examination will be in the 'B' range or above.

### **'A' Level**

1. Introduction is comprehensive, gives reader good direction, sets the scene, and is followed throughout the paper.
2. Summary/conclusion is thoughtful and relevant.
3. Fundamental issues addressed in depth with original arguments and critical judgments,.
4. Demonstrate exemplary analysis and synthesis of concepts from your program of study, including core and advanced clinical practice specialty courses.
5. Current and classic primary literature sources are utilized.
6. Writing style shows evidence of individuality, unity, and fluency.
7. Overall presentation of the paper is professional with no errors in syntax, spelling, etc. (i.e., correct English language usage), and follows appropriate assignment and referencing guidelines.

### **'B' Level**

1. Introduction gives reader direction and is followed throughout the paper.
2. Summary/conclusion is clear and concise.
3. Fundamental issues addressed with evidence of some original arguments and critical judgments.
4. Demonstrate satisfactory analysis and synthesis of concepts from your program of study, including core and advanced clinical practice specialty courses.
5. Current literature sources utilized (primary and secondary).
6. Writing style is fluent with evidence of individuality and clarity.
7. Overall presentation of the paper is neat and well organized with few minor errors in syntax, spelling, etc. (i.e., correct English language usage), and follows appropriate assignment and referencing guidelines.

### **'C' Level**

1. Introduction gives reader good direction.
2. Summary/conclusion is clear and concise.
3. Fundamental issues described but limited originality of arguments and few critical judgments.
4. Insufficient demonstration of analysis and synthesis of concepts from your program of study, including core and advanced clinical practice specialty courses.
5. Limited literature sources are utilized (current and/or classic).
6. Writing style is fluent and some evidence of individuality and clarity.
7. Overall presentation of the paper is neat and minor errors in syntax, spelling, etc. (i.e., correct English language usage), and follows appropriate assignment and referencing guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup>Analysis emphasized the breakdown of information into its constituent parts and the detection of relationships of those parts.

<sup>2</sup>Synthesis refers to the process of working with elements or parts from many sources and combining them in such a way so as to form a product not clearly there before.

## **Master's Project/Master's Thesis Research**

All graduate nursing students must complete a master's project or master's thesis research. Detailed information is available in the Department of Nursing Manual for Projects and Manual for Thesis Research available online at: [http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=graduate\\_ms.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~cnhs/nursing/?Page=graduate_ms.html)

### **Protection of Human Subjects**

There are two committees at UVM responsible for reviewing and overseeing all research activities to ensure the protection of individuals who participate in research projects. These committees (often referred to as institutional review boards or IRBs) are:

1. Committee on Human Research in the Medical Sciences (CHRMS); and
2. Committee on Human Research in the Behavioral Sciences (CHRBS).

Any research and select master's projects conducted by students in the Department of Nursing must be approved by the IRB prior to any contact with potential subjects. Go to the following web site to determine the type of IRB approval needed: [http://www.uvm.edu/~irb/?Page=m1\\_education.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~irb/?Page=m1_education.html). (Note: the space before the word "education" is an underline.)

In addition, all students must complete the *Protection of Human Subjects in Research Tutorial* prior to applying for IRB review. Tutorials are effective for three years. Please keep a copy of your certificate of tutorial completion for your files. Failure to adhere to these requirements may prohibit the continuation of your work as initially conceptualized. The process for obtaining IRB approval is detailed in the Department of Nursing Thesis and Project Manuals.

The Office of Sponsored Programs' web site has Investigator Guidelines that provide all the information regarding the federal regulations and a Policy and Procedures section that provides UVM requirements. You will find all of the necessary protocol submission information and forms for protocol submission at <http://www.uvm.edu/spa/>

### **Statistical Consulting Clinic** <http://library.uvm.edu/services/statistics/newclinic.php>

The SCC is a free service that offers statistical consultation and advice to the students and faculty of the University of Vermont. The goals of the SCC are to promote scientific collaboration between disciplines, enhance the quality of research at UVM, and improve the education of UVM students. The clinic is supported by UVM Libraries and the Statistics Program..



## University, CNHS, and Department of Nursing Governance Organizations

There are multiple opportunities for student participation in the governance of the University, the College, and the Department of Nursing. Students may also join the Student Nurse Association and may qualify for Kappa Tau, the UVM Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Honor Society. Students are strongly encouraged to consider these opportunities and actively participate in this aspect of University life. For a description of possibilities on University committees, see the Cat's Tale, online:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~dos/office/catstale2011-2012.pdf>

In the Department of Nursing, the following committees and organizations seek graduate student participation:

<b>Committee/Organization</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
Admissions & Academic Standards	Reviews, revises and develops undergraduate and graduate admission and academic policies. Makes decisions regarding student admission and progression.	One graduate student is sought to join selected faculty for policy changes in the graduate program.	Twice a year and as needed for policy changes.
Graduate Education Committee	Functions as a working group to oversee and make recommendations to the Faculty Organization who are members of the Graduate Faculty in the Graduate College to refine, implement, and evaluate the graduate curriculum.	Five elected faculty members, student representation from the graduate program, and other invited persons with liaison responsibilities.	Monthly during the academic year.
Kappa Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society	The purposes of Kappa Tau are to recognize superior achievement and development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.	Graduate nursing students are required to have completed ¼ of the program of study. Students in graduate programs are required to achieve a 3.5 GPA on a four-point scale or its equivalent.	Kappa Tau activities occur throughout the semester and are open to all.
The University of Vermont Student Nurse Association (UVSNA)	Provide an opportunity to focus on current educational and political issues. Activities include community service, social events, fund raising and scheduled meetings to share information on student life, health care issues, and various topics of interest.	Faculty advisor and all interested students.	Check the bulletin board in Rowell for further information and a list of scheduled activities and meetings.

## **Scholarly and Professional Recognition**

### **Honors Day**

Honors Day is held each spring to recognize students for excellence in scholarship, leadership, clinical excellence and community service. Information on specific criteria and the nomination process for the following awards can be obtained from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Office of Student Services, Rowell 106.

#### **Kappa Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International: Graduate Student Award**

Awarded to a student in the master's program who fosters high professional and academic standard in self and peers. The recipient is selected by graduate faculty.

#### **Kappa Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International: Graduate Student Project Award**

Awarded to a graduate nursing student for excellence in his/her project. This student is selected by members of Kappa Tau.

#### **Kappa Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International: Graduate Student Thesis Award**

Awarded to a graduate nursing student for excellence in his/her thesis.

#### **Vermont Organization of Nurse Leaders**

This award for outstanding leadership is presented to the student graduating from the graduate program who, in the opinion of the faculty, best exemplifies achievements in scholarship, scholarly productivity and leadership for nursing.

#### **Fletcher Allen Health Care Award for Innovation in Nursing Practice**

This award was established in 1998 by the nurse administrators at FAHC to recognize a graduate student who demonstrates innovation in practice in any setting; and a breakthrough initiative in patient care or patient education, or care coordination across the continuum.

#### **Vermont State Nurses' Association Award**

Awarded to a graduate student, who in the opinion of the faculty, best demonstrates outstanding clinical practice.

#### **Special Recognition Awards**

Select awards may be given to graduating graduate students who demonstrate outstanding achievement in academics, significant University involvement and/or significant community service involvement.