PURPOSE: The purpose of the Age of Earned Credits in MSN Program and DNP Program of Study policy is to set a time limit in which academic credits may be applied toward the completion of the MSN and DNP degree as specified in the TTUHSC MSN and DNP Curriculum plans. This policy ensures that course credits earned and applied toward completion of the MSN or DNP degree are relevant and reflect the contemporary health care/nursing practice environment.

REVIEW: All policies in the Graduate Program Manual shall be reviewed by the Graduate Program Associate Dean/Department Chairs by December 1 of even numbered years in collaboration with the Graduate Program Council. Final approval of the Graduate Program Manual is by the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1.0 Policy

Graduate Program faculty members recognize students enrolled in the Graduate Program are nursing professionals who may be working fulltime, carrying the responsibilities of upper level management, direct patient care, and educational program delivery across the spectrum of contemporary health care. To accommodate the needs of students who require a Program of Study extension and to ensure timely completion of MSN or DNP degree requirements based on completion of course work relevant to the contemporary health care/nursing practice environment, an age of coursework time limits will be applied to credits applied to the degree.

2.0 Procedure

2.1. Any earned credit for a TTUHSC course applied toward the completion of the MSN and DNP degree will be no older than five (5) years from the expected date of graduation. The age of the earned credit will be determined by date of completion of the course. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis with considerations of requirements by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and with approval by the appropriate Council.

2.2. Transfer credit earned from other universities which will be applied toward the MSN or DNP degree will be no older than five (5) years from the date of graduation in the MSN or DNP program. The age of the transfer credits will be determined in the same manner as determining the age of TTUHSC credits. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis with considerations of
2.3. Requirements by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and with approval by the appropriate Council.

2.4. During the student’s progression through the Program of Study if any earned credit being applied to the MSN or DNP degree become ineligible due to date of completion to be applied toward the completed course of study, the student will be expected to repeat the course, paying the tuition and fees set by TTUHSC at the time of registration.

2.5. Students will be allowed to repeat MSN or DNP courses to replace previously earned course credits too old to be included in the course study, however students will be admitted on a space available basis after the current cohort of MSN or DNP students have registered for the course and will be expected to pay the tuition and fees set by TTUHSC at the time of registration.

2.6. Upon admission to the MSN or DNP programs and during the development of the degree plan, students will be advised about the time limits on TTUHSC and transfer courses applied toward completion of the degree.

Approved: DNP Committee: 9-11-12; Reviewed/Revised: BJC/DNP Council 12.2014; Revised/approved by the DNP Council, 11/2016; revised and approved by DNP Council 09/02/2017; Graduate Program Council 11/26/2018; Graduate Program Council 11/30/2020; Graduate Program Council 10-10-2022