SON OP 40.703: Age of Earned Credits in Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program of Study

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Age of Earned Credits in the DNP Program of Study policy is to set a time limit in which academic credits may be applied toward the completion of the DNP degree as specified in the TTUHSC DNP Curriculum plan. The policy provides a time-limiting framework to promote the ongoing progression of the student through the DNP program and successful completion of all requirements and earning the DNP degree. This policy ensures that course credits earned and applied toward completion of the DNP degree are relevant and reflect the contemporary health care/nursing practice environment. The policy is consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2021).

REVIEW: All policies in the Graduate Program Manual shall be reviewed by the Associate Deans/Department Chairs of the Graduate Program by September 1 of even-numbered years in collaboration with the MSN and DNP Councils. 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 post-master’s DNP program are nursing professionals who often are working full-time, 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 DNP degree requirements based on completion of course work relevant to the contemporary health care/nursing practice environment, age of coursework time limits will be applied to credits applied to the DNP degree.

2.0 Procedure

2.1. Any earned credit for a TTUHSC or TTU course applied toward the completion of the 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 the 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 DNP Council.

2.2. Transfer credit earned from other universities which will be applied toward the DNP degree will be no older than five (5) years from the date of graduation in the DNP program. The age of the transfer credits will be determined in the same manner as
determining the age of TTUHSC or TTU credits. 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 DNP Council.

2.3. Students will be allowed to repeat 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 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 DNP program and during the development of the degree plan, students will be advised about the time limits on TTUHSC/TTU and transfer courses applied toward the 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 11/30/2020; Graduate Program Council 10/10/2022