The purpose of the School of Nursing Ratio of Classroom to Clinical Course Hours Operating Policy and Procedure (SON OP) is to ensure that the design of the nursing curriculum combines two approaches to preparation for professional nursing. It first presents courses which focus on basic concepts and processes applicable to nursing in a wide variety of settings. The student encounters the increasingly complex requirements of care for individual patients and clients and groups of patients or clients, and the increasingly complex requirements of practice in the multifaceted role of the professional nurse. In order to accomplish these purposes, the curriculum includes additional advanced content in physiology, biochemistry, and pharmacology which contribute to increased understanding of complex nursing care.

The OP will be reviewed biennially by September 1 of each even numbered year (ENY) by the applicable Associate Dean/Department Chair, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Dean of the School of Nursing.

The Texas Board of Nursing rule 215.9(c) states that there must be a rationale for the ratio of contact hours assigned to classroom and clinical learning experiences. The recommended ratio is three contact hours of clinical learning experiences for each contact hour of classroom instruction. When the ratio differs from the recommended 1:3 ratio, the rationale for that difference must be documented within official school records such as faculty minutes and on reports to the Board. For specific calculation of ratio refer to BON Rule 215.9(c).