



**Health Policy & Advocacy for DNP Leaders**  
**NURS 6331**  
**Summer 2025**

**Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online**

**Instructor's Name:** Dr. Deanna Adams, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, FNP-C, GS-C

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**Office Hours:** Virtual office hours weekly and one-on-one virtual office hours by appointment. Please email to make a one-on-one virtual appointment. **Office hours will be on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted in Canvas for weekly virtual office hours. You are expected to have your camera on while on Zoom meetings.**

**The best way to contact me is via email.** Please allow a 24-hour response time (longer on weekends and holidays). Please do not email me through Canvas. Doing so will delay response times. **If it is urgent,** you may also text me at the number provided in Canvas. Please use discretion regarding the timing of texts and phone calls. Calls or texts received after 6 p.m. may not be returned until the next day at my discretion. If you call and expect me to return your call, **please leave a voicemail with your name and a good callback number.**

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes the importance of the policymaking process as it relates to health care in the United States and helps DNP-prepared nurses become more skilled in health policy advocacy, analysis, and research. The focus is on problem identification and agenda setting, policy analysis, strategy and policy development/design, policy adoption/enactment, and policy implementation and evaluation of the programs spawned by policy.

**Prerequisites:** NURS 6303, NURS 6373

**Corequisites:** NURS 6375

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze how public policy influences healthcare. (AACN, 2.9)
2. Advance equitable population health policy. (AACN, 3.4)
3. Demonstrate advocacy strategies. (AACN, 3.5)
4. Use data metrics to inform change and policy recommendations. (AACN, 3.1, 5.1)

### Required Textbooks

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; National Academy of Medicine; Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020–2030. (2021). *The Future of Nursing 20202030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity* (J. L. Flaubert, S. Le Menestrel, D. R. Williams, & M. K. Wakefield, Eds.). National Academies Press (US).  
<https://doi.org/10.17226/25982>

Available for download in the course and at <https://www.nap.edu/download/25982>

Short, N. M. (2022). *Milstead's health policy and politics: A nurse's guide* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

### Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade
Participation	5%
Learning Assessments – Check your Understanding	10%
Case Studies	20%
Assignments	40%
Discussions	15%
Reflections	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based on the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79
- D - 60-69
- F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

**Late Policy:** 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. No late assignments will be accepted after one week. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we

will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. However, AI will be limited to assignments where AI is a critical component of the learning activity. I will always indicate when and where the use of AI tools for this course is appropriate. When AI use is permissible, it will be documented in the description, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. When using AI tools for assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange (e.g. prompts used), highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used; (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, elements of texts, etc.); and (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to experiment for fun, etc.). **Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed to do so.**

**Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.**

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
  - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
  - a reduced or failing grade for the course
  - removal from the Nursing program
  - removal from UT Tyler

**Repeating a Course:** Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

**Attendance and Make-up Policy:** Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

**Graded Course Requirements Information:**

- **Participation:** The participation grade will include the course orientation, student information, graduate affirmation forms, and the health policy webinar.
- **Learning Assessments - Check your understanding:** You will complete quizzes on content covered in modules throughout the course. The knowledge checks can be completed as often as you would like until the deadline for completion. Your highest score will be kept. A minimum score of 80 out of 100 points is required for successful completion.

- **Case Studies:** There will be three case study discussions where you will apply concepts from the course text and reply to your peers using the RISE model.
- **Assignments:** This grade is derived from two major assignments, the policy brief and the personal advocacy engagement assignment.
- **Discussions:** Throughout the semester, you will participate in group discussions to help you apply concepts related to the course and provide actionable feedback using the RISE model. Topics vary and are introduced within corresponding modules. Grading criteria for assigned discussion board postings can be found within the modules for which they are assigned.
- **Reflections:** You will reflect on various topics and share what you have learned throughout the course.

**Please Note:** Detailed information along with grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: 5/5/25

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): 5/9/25

Holidays: Memorial Day 5/26/25; Juneteenth 6/19/25

Last Date to Withdraw: 6/5/25

Last Day of Course: 6/21/25

**Course Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates /Times: Subject to change based on the needs of the course**

Module /Week	Assignment	Due Date/Time (CT)
Module 1/ Weeks 1 Getting Started Introduction & Nurses' Role in Informing Public Policy	Course Orientation  Quiz: RISE Model Graduate Affirmation Forms  DB: Experience with Policy & Advocacy Introductions  Discussion: Case Study 1	Live: Tues., May 6th, 8:00 pm Recorded: Sun., May 11th, 11:59 pm Sun., May 11th, 11:59 pm   Sun., May 11th, 11:59 pm   Initial post due Wed., May 7th, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., May 11th, 11:59 pm
Census Date		May 9th

Module 2/ Week 2 Policy Identification, Analysis, & Design	DB: Investigate a Public Health Policy  Policy Brief Planning	Initial post due Wed., May 14th, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., May 18th, 11:59 pm  Sun., May 18th, 11:59 pm
Module 3/ Week 3 Policy Enactment, Implementation, & Evaluation	Discussion: Case Study 2  Final Policy Brief	Initial post due Wed., May 21st, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., May 25th, 11:59 pm  Sun., May 25th, 11:59 pm
Holiday	Memorial Day - Offices Closed	No assignments due this date
Last Day to WD		June 5th
Module 4/ Week 4 News & Social Media Literacy	DB: Examples of Bias  DB: Debating Yourself on a Controversial Contention	Initial post due Wed., May 28th, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., June 1st, 11:59 pm  Initial post due Sun., June 1st, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., June 8th, 11:59 pm
Module 5/ Week 5 Data Finance in a Political World	Discussion: Case Study 3  Check Your Understanding	Initial post due Wed., June 4th, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., June 8th, 11:59 pm  Sun., June 8th, 11:59 pm
Module 6/ Week 6 Engaging in Policy Activities	Discussion: Personal Advocacy Engagement  Check Your Understanding	Initial post due Wed., June 11th, 11:59 pm; Peer post due Sun., June 15th, 11:59 pm  Sun., June 15th, 11:59 pm
Module 7/ Week 7 Wrap-Up	Discussion: Shared Reflection	Tues., June 17th, 11:59 pm
Holiday	Juneteenth - Offices Closed	June 19th
Last Day of Course	All assignments due before this date	June 21st

**School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:**

[https://www.uttaler.edu/nursing/college/student\\_guide\\_and\\_policies.php](https://www.uttaler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php)

**Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.**