

NURS 3411 - ChildbearingWomen's Hlth Nurs

Fall 2024 Syllabus, Section 102, CRN 14745

Instructor Information

Maria Sanchez, RN,MSN

Clinical Assist Professor of Nursing

Email: mariad.sanchez@tamiu.edu

Office: Canseco CNS 315 M

Office Hours:

Thursdays: IN-PERSON by appointment and availability after class from 10:30am – 12:30pm (I take a lunch break 12:30 pm-1:00 pm) & then available again 1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Fridays: VIRTUAL by appointment via Microsoft Teams from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Times and Location

R 2:50pm-4:50pm in Canseco Hall 101

Course Description

This course focuses on clinical application of the nursing process in providing culturally competent care to women across the lifespan, neonates, and their families. Clinical experiences allow students the opportunity to synthesize evidence based practices when providing nursing care to these patients, with an emphasis on the childbearing family. This course is 2 hours of theory and 6 hours of practicum per week. 84 hours total practicum are required in this course. Prerequisites: NURS 3310, NURS 3410, NURS 3412, NURS 3613, NURS 3614 and NURS 4310. Corequisites: NURS 4410 and NURS 4614.

Nursing Department, College of Nursing&Health Sci

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Synthesize knowledge from the arts, humanities, sciences, and other disciplines in developing a framework for nursing knowledge and practice.
2. Explore the effect of variations in health status, developmental processes, values, beliefs and attitudes, culture, history, and environment on nursing care needs.
3. Use critical thinking, clinical judgment/decision making, problem-solving, and the research process in the development of nursing knowledge and practice.
4. Assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate evidenced-based and culturally - appropriate safe nursing care with patients, families, populations and communities.
5. Evaluate utilization of health promotion strategies in the development of nursing practice.
6. Develop professional nursing practice frameworks and roles, including the provider of patient-centered care, health care team member/ collaborator, leader/manager, educator, scholar, patient-safety advocate, activist, mentor, and entrepreneur.
7. Evaluate the impact of evolving technological, socioeconomic, political and demographic changes on nursing practice and health care systems.
8. Adhere to legal and ethical principles in the development of professional nursing practice.
9. Articulate a commitment to life-long learning.
10. Participate in nursing- and health-related ser

Student Learning Outcomes

- Apply concepts and principles from the arts, sciences, humanities, and nursing when making practice decisions for women, childbearing patients, neonates, and their families.
- Incorporate social cultural, ethnic, spiritual, psychological and economic factors when providing nursing care to women, childbearing patients, neonates, and their families.
- Use critical thinking, evidence-based knowledge, and interdisciplinary collaboration to develop holistic plans of care for women, childbearing patients, neonates, and their families.
- Provide accurate, safe, and holistic nursing care to women, childbearing patients, neonates, and their families within ethical, legal, and professional nursing boundaries.
- Incorporate relevant research when discussing the delivery of comprehensive nursing care among diverse populations of women, childbearing patients, and neonates, including individuals, families, and communities.
- Identify opportunities within the community to provide health teaching and promotion for women, childbearing patients, neonates, and their families

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamui.edu](https://www.tamui.edu)) (<https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Davis Advantage for Maternal-Newborn Nursing 4th edition	Durham, R., Chapman, L.	58081101123297WJJH5

Other Course Materials

Davis Advantage Online Resources

Mandatory interactive learning platform for class assignments and participation. Work done on this platform will count towards 5% of the final grade.

Please create an account and join the Davis Advantage class on our first-class day 08/29/24.

To begin working in Davis Advantage you will need an access code. The access code can be found on the inside cover of your new book, or access can be purchased on <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fadavis.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Csanjuanita.hernandez%40tamui.edu%7C6a8ea7bec68f4707bc9608da7ee0d741%7Ce6e9982505da4869bf49e63a0e04d314%7C0%7C0%7C637961802031934931%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=z4MdPHXOljpZnLLmLabsBNahwl6iz8x7G%2Fk2TVsSYFQ%3D&reserved=0>

Please then join my class so that I can see your work. **My class ID is:** 58081101123297FBDAR

An orientation video that covers everything you need to know to get started can be found here: <https://go.fadavis.com/Advantage-BasicNursing-StudentOrientation.html> (<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgo.fadavis.com%2FAdvantage-BasicNursing-StudentOrientation.html&data=05%7C01%7Csanjuanita.hernandez%40tamui.edu%7C6a8ea7bec68f4707bc9608da7ee0d741%7Ce6e9982505da4869bf49e63a0e04d314%7C0%7C0%7C637961802031934931%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OagygpqktV8Yt7a2nCKcWfl7sXzGqxxY2DAoEjh5Gg%3D&reserved=0>)

If you need additional help, please visit the F.A. Davis Support Page (<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcustomersupport.fadavis.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Csanjuanita.hernandez%40tamui.edu%7C6a8ea7bec68f4707bc9608da7ee0d741%7Ce6e9982505da4869bf49e63a0e04d314%7C0%7C0%7C637961802031934931%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qgUja9mDfJ2bJQJVlqUjAOD0xhBY6LnWAenmYyyICY%3D&reserved=0>) for helpful videos and answers to most common questions.

HESI curriculum

HESI Testing license: Due to be purchased during the first week of class.

OTHER COURSE MATERIAL

- Any *current* NCLEX review book.
- Any *current* Nursing Care Plan book.
- Any *current* Drug Manual.
- Any **7th edition** APA reference guide.

Nursing and medical journal subscriptions provided in the library URL: <http://tamiu.libguides.com/nursing> (<http://tamiu.libguides.com/nursing/>) is a comprehensive resource to aid nursing students and faculty on use of library resources in nursing, medicine and health. It includes links to databases, books, videos and other online resources and also includes some tutorial material

Grading Criteria

CONHS/CSON Grading and Grade Rounding Policy

The CONHS/CSON has adopted a grading scale in line with other Texas schools of nursing:

PARTICIPATION

Participation in this class is required. You will be tested over material stemming from “lecture” materials and as part of class discussions.

Rubrics

All assessments will be graded on a 100-point scale. See assignment rubrics in blackboard.

Late Work Policy

In fairness to all students, **late assignments will NOT be accepted**. The grade for a late assignment will be recorded as a zero. Students should make sure to receive a receipt when submitting online assignments.

Students with an exam grade below 75 must meet with faculty within one week of taking the exam, complete an exam wrapper to document faculty and student to discussion, and follow a remediation plan developed by the faculty to assist with improvement of grades. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor to set up an appointment for a remediation success plan.

Nursing students must achieve a grade of C or higher in both theory and clinical components of a course to pass that course and progress in the program. A grade of “F” in either theory or clinical components will constitute a course failure.

To pass a nursing course and progress in the program, a nursing student must attain:

- An exam average (includes tests 1, 2, and 3, and the final exam) of 75% or higher.

-AND- An overall course average of 75% or higher.

CONHS/CSON Grading and Grade Rounding Policy

The CONHS/CSON has adopted a grading scale in line with other Texas schools of nursing:

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-75
F	74 and Below

Open Boilerplate

GRADE ROUNDING

Test Average

The weighted exam average total for the courses includes all exams and the final exam, and is calculated to two decimal places and rounded mathematically as follows:

* Less than 0.45 rounds down to the next whole number (74.44 rounds down to a 74)

* 0.45 or greater: Rounds up to the next whole number (75.45 rounds up to a 75)

Course Average

The final weighted numeric course grade is calculated to two decimal places and rounded mathematically as follows:

* Less than 0.45 rounds down to the next whole number (74.44 rounds down to a 74)

* 0.45 or greater: Rounds up to the next whole number (75.45 rounds up to a 75)

Students who fail all three module exams will not be allowed to continue in the course or clinical rotation, thus will fail NURS 4410: Child Health Nursing. Read the CSON Grading and Grade Rounding Policy found in the student handbook for additional information on examinations (pg.51).

HESI Exit Exam

At the end of the semester students will be required to take the Proctored standardized course exams. The score on this exam will count as a grade and will count for 10% of the course grade. Grading for this exam will be as follows: 850 or greater: 100. Students scoring below the benchmark of 850 will receive the conversion score that is assigned by HESI as the grade of record on the gradebook.

Students will receive review packets based on their performance on the HESI exam. These packets will be counted as an assignment for the course and will count as 5% of the course grade. All students will be required to complete the review packets by the due date assigned by course faculty. Failure to complete the review packets will result in the student receiving an Incomplete Grade for the course. Information regarding the Incomplete, Withdraw, and Dismissal process can be found in the TAMIU BSN Handbook <https://www.tamtu.edu/conhs/documents/handbooks/bsnhandbook.pdf>

Remediation classes Students enrolled in a third semester course (Child Health Nursing, Childbearing & Women's Health, and Adult Health II) will have the opportunity to attend a HESI remediation course taught by Dr. Belva Gonzalez. The remediation course consists of three weeks of instruction covering Child Health, OB, and Med-Surg. The remediation course is highly recommended for all students but especially for those who failed to reach the benchmark score of 850 or higher. Dates/ Times for this class will be announced.

STUDENT CHALLENGES

Any student having questions regarding exams, papers or course grades, must make an appointment to see the lead faculty to review the matter no later than two days after grade is received. Student requests for a second evaluator must be made within one week after grade receipt. A second evaluator for exams or papers may be consulted when deemed appropriate by the lead faculty. When a second evaluator for a paper is requested by a student, the grades of the initial evaluator and the second evaluator will be averaged for the grade in question.

LEARNING CONTRACTS

Students will be assigned weekly NCLEX style questions in Elsevier as part of their assignments. These questions will help prepare students for the end of course and end of program standardized exams (HESI) and for NCLEX. These questions will be assigned a percentage of the total weight of the course grade.

All students who **scores 80% or below on any exam will be given a Learning Contract** from faculty. A Learning Contract is created to facilitate student success in the course and in the BSN program. Failure to comply with the requirements listed in the Learning Contract signed both by faculty and student will result in an **Incomplete Grade** and will prevent a student from progressing to the next academic semester.

DIDACTIC ASSESSMENT	POINTS
Exams (3 Exams, 19% each)	60%
HESI Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%
Assignment	5
HESI Review Packets	5%
TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE	100%
CLINICAL ASSESSMENT	POINTS
Priority plan of care and nurse's notes for acute setting rotation	Pass/Fail
Pre-simulation work and simulation performance	Pass/Fail
FINAL CLINICAL GRADE	PASS/FAIL

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Thu	8/29	Labor and Birth Fetal Heart Rate Assessment Postpartum Physiological Assessments & Nursing Care	Ch. 8 Ch 9 Ch 12	Class Syllabi Davis Advantage due 9/22 Elsevier Evolve due 9/8
Thu	9/5	Physiological Aspects of Antepartum Care Nursing Care of the Neonate and Family	Ch 4 Ch 15	Davis Advantage due 9/22 Elsevier Evolve due 9/8
Thu	9/12	Complications of Labor and Birth Intrapartum & PP Care of Cesarean Birth Families	Ch 10 Ch 11	Davis Advantage due 9/22 Elsevier Evolve due 9/15
Thu	9/19	High Risk Postpartum Care	Ch 14	Davis Advantage due 9/22 Elsevier Evolve due 9/22
Thu	9/26	EXAM 1		
Thu	10/3	High Risk Neonatal Care	Ch 17	Davis Advantage due Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	10/10	High Risk Antepartum	Ch 7	Davis Advantage due 10/6 Elsevier Evolve due 10/6
Thu	10/17	Antepartum Tests Transition to Parenthood Newborn Nutrition	Ch 6 Ch 13 Ch 16	Davis Advantage due Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	10/24	EXAM 2		
Thu	10/31	Genetics, Conception, Fetal Development & Reproductive Technology Psycho-Social-Cultural Aspects of the Antepartum Period	Ch 3 Ch 5	Davis Advantage due Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	11/7	Well-Women's Health Alterations in Women's Health	Ch 18 Ch 19	Davis Advantage due Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	11/14	EXAM 3 will be given on Friday Nov. 15 at 8:30 am		Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	11/21	Review Community Project		Elsevier Evolve due
Thu	11/28	HESI Monday Nov 25		
Thu	12/5	Final Exam Wed. Dec. 4 (Tentative Date)		

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.

- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

TAMIU encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The University will always tolerate different, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4).

TAMIU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMIU student, you are bound by the TAMIU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMIU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at <https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml/>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who

cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.

- **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
- **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W"
 - **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to <https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml> for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services located in Student Center 126. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Student Counseling and Disability Services office.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: <http://www.tamiau.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml> (<http://www.tamiau.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml/>)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. If a student would like to file a complaint for discrimination due to his or her pregnant/parenting status, please contact the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site: <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit/>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiau.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodations. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students at the University, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student will need a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU Student Handbook. As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (<https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml/>)).

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in admissions, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt, at <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit/>), and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.