

## Graduate Programs in Nursing

### GOAL STATEMENT FORMAT

As a component of your application review, please attach a typed goal statement summarizing your personal and professional qualities that will contribute to your success in completing the program. Master's Nursing applicants are to complete items A-G; DNP applicants are to complete items A-H. Please follow the guidelines below when writing your goal statement and include your name and the page number on each page of the Goal Statement:

- **Master's (MS) and Graduate Certificate (GC) applicants**, please limit your statement to three (3) double-spaced typed pages.
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) applicants**, please limit your statement to five (5) double-spaced typed pages. Include why your clinical practice PICO question is important to you; background on why you have an interest in this topic; and the clinical practice environment that you are interested in if accepted.

In your Goal Statement please address the following:

- A. Identify your goals for graduate study and professional development, and how the graduate program will help you reach these goals.
- B. Identify and discuss professional work experiences including, leadership skills, responsibilities, evidence-based practice, clinical practice and/or research that have contributed to your professional development.
- C. Describe your experiences in community service and how the experiences utilized and helped develop your professional skills and knowledge.
- D. Describe your strengths that will facilitate your success in the graduate program.
- E. Identify your approaches to address personal challenges you will face as you progress in the Graduate Programs in Nursing.
- F. Describe your perceptions of the advanced role you have selected (i.e., Nursing Leadership, Nurse Educator, Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist, or Nurse Practitioner).
- G. Describe your reasons for pursuing education in your selected role.
- H. Only DNP applicants answer this question: What is the clinical practice question that you are most interested in studying in your clinical scholarship courses.\* Applicants should provide background for why this clinical question is important for clinical nurse scholars to answer and be formatted in the PICO or PICOT style. In addition, the applicant may provide ideas for the most appropriate clinical setting within which this question can be answered.

\*A recommended resource book for those considering the DNP is: *The Doctor of Nursing Practice: A Guidebook for Role Development and Professional Issues* by Lisa Astalos Chism (2013). It offers a background for why the DNP is important for practice; differences between the DNP and Ph.D.; expectations for possible coursework in a DNP program; and hints for transitioning into one's role with a DNP degree. It may answer questions for anyone pondering a DNP program. (Jones and Bartlett Publishers; ISBN# 978-0-4496-4560-1).