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		Approval Date:	1/11/2021
		Effective Date:	1/26/2021
		Review Date:	2024

## POLICY TITLE: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

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During the first semester of enrollment in the nursing major, the undergraduate student will be contacted by the College of Nursing (CON) to set up an advising appointment with a staff academic advisor and sign a degree plan. The student is required to review and sign the degree plan and the student will receive a copy of the official document for their records. The original degree plan is kept in the student's file. Since the degree plan represents the student's commitment to complete the requirements for graduation and the university's commitment to hold the student accountable for meeting those requirements, it is a very important document that must be closely followed. The student may revise the degree plan only with the consent of the Director of the BSN Program. The Director of the BSN Program must approve any change(s) in writing.

### Undergraduate Faculty Advising

#### The Cougar Nurse Mentoring/Advising Program

Students will be assigned a faculty member via the Cougar Nurse Mentoring/Advising Program. The Cougar Nurse Mentoring/Advising Program is based upon the UHCON values. Some of the goals of the program include promoting student retention, increasing the accessibility of faculty outside of the classroom, and providing role modeling opportunities.

Students will be encouraged to meet with their mentors in a group setting at least twice per semester. A list of potential topics for meetings may include:

- Learning style assessment
- Self-care concepts (benefits, strategies, recognizing burn-out)
- Daily planner check-ups
- Importance of journaling and self-reflection
- Electing one student leader from each group (one of which will become the Student Representative and alternate for the cohort)
- Care plan writing
- Drug card tips
- Assistance with writing NANDAs
- Understanding an ATI feedback report
- Professional communication strategies (understanding the chain of command, how to report concerns as a nursing student)
- Formulating a 5-year professional/personal plan
- Employment and career coaching advisement
- Potential issuing of recommendation letters for scholarships, employment, etc.

#### Mentoring Forum Norms:

- Students should speak to their course leaders directly when they have questions about their courses or grades.

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- Students should refrain from expressing opinions regarding any faculty, staff, or student (whether positive or negative).
- Track-related issues or concerns will be referred to Track Managers as appropriate.
- Personal student counseling needs will be referred to the University of Houston Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (713) 743-5454.

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Approved by CON Faculty Council: 1/11/2021

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 1/26/2021