

GGSON Undergraduate Program Handbook

SON OP 30.240 – Inter-rater Reliability for Written Assignments

PURPOSE The Texas Board of Nursing requires schools of nursing to have guidelines/policies for performing inter-rater reliability reviews of students' written work including care plans.

REVIEW This handbook shall be reviewed by the Associate Dean by September 1st of even numbered years in collaboration with the Curriculum Committee. Final approval of the GGSON Undergraduate Program Handbook is granted by the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

The faculty of the GGSON will use a uniform format to grade written assignments. Measuring instruments (grading tools) will be developed for all written assignments utilizing weighted criteria appropriate to the course level. This policy ensures accuracy and consistency of grading of written work submitted by students in a course taught by more than one faculty member.

At the beginning of each semester the course facilitator will randomly select a written assignment from each category of written assignments within the course. All course faculty will then complete a blind review of the assignment utilizing the appropriate grading tool. Inter-rater reliability assignments will then be completed for all categories of written assignments.

Calculating Inter-rater Reliability

1. Calculate the mean of all faculty grades on the selected assignments.
2. Determine the number of agreements and disagreements. Using the grading scale of 100, an agreement is considered to be within the range of +5 to -5 points of the mean. Disagreements are those scores which fall outside this range.
3. Estimate the inter-rater reliability by using the following formula (Woods & Catanzaro, 1988):
Inter-rater reliability = $\frac{\text{\# of agreements}}{\text{Total \# agreements \& disagreements}}$
(% agreement)
4. An 85% inter-rater agreement between faculty is considered acceptable and reliable.

Failure To Assure Inter-rater Reliability

If the inter-rater agreement is less than 85%, the course facilitator will request a meeting of all faculty participating in grading the written assignment and evaluate where discrepancies in grading exist. Grading should reflect agreement among faculty after reviewing discrepancies. A second randomly selected written assignment of the same type will then be assessed to assure inter-rater reliability. If the second inter-rater agreement is less than 85%, the issue will be referred to the Associate Dean for further resolution.

In The Event Of A Written Assignment Which Earns A Failing Grade

Even in cases where 85% inter-rater agreement has been obtained, if a written assignment earns a failing grade the faculty responsible for grading that assignment will have another faculty who is teaching in the course* evaluate the assignment. In such cases, the assignment should be graded using an unmarked set of grading criteria identical to the criteria used for the original grade. The two faculty members should reach a consensus regarding the grade given for the student.*In cases where there is only one faculty member teaching the course, the second faculty member should be someone who has recently taught in the course and is familiar with the assignments.