**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCY PORTFOLIO**

Throughout your nursing program you will be expected to create and maintain a Growth and Development Competency Portfolio. This type of portfolio is private and not for others to review. As the student nurse you are accountable for its development and maintenance.

The Growth and Development Competency Portfolio is designed for the purpose of self-monitoring progress in meeting personal and program learning goals (Gaberson & Oermann, 1999; Oermann & Gaberson, 1998) as you proceed through the nursing program. Your portfolio is a collection of materials that reflects your learning each term and across all of the terms. As such it is a continual work in progress and can be maintained in hard copy or electronically. You will use the contents of your portfolio to demonstrate your own understanding of nursing, your development towards becoming a nurse, and tracking of how you are meeting the entry to practice competencies and program Learner Outcomes as you proceed through the program. The portfolio will also prepare you to meet the CARNA entry into practice competencies as you transition from nursing student to RN.

The Growth and Development Competency Portfolio will enable you to summarize your learning at the end of each term so that you will be better able to articulate for yourself your strengths and the areas that you are working on as you move from term to term. In your final term of the program, your portfolio provides a foundation from which to select material to include in a best-work professional portfolio in which you summarize and present your growth to your colleagues (Gaberson & Oermann, 1999; Oermann & Gaberson, 1998). It is also at this time that you will be provided resources for learning how to create a resume that highlights your own particular strengths and skills for potential employers.

The Growth and Development Competency Portfolio enables you as a student nurse to become familiar with the same process that all RNs engage in annually, a self-assessment of learning needs and the activities that the RN will complete to meet these needs during the year. It is a document that will assist you as a student and get you ready to function as a professional RN on graduation. Additionally, the materials in your portfolio will enable you to become well prepared for employment interviews you will have on graduation.

Your Growth and Development Competency Portfolio is a collection of documents, which may consist of:

1) Reflective writing
2) Signed summative evaluations
3) Consolidated learning assignments in NURS 285, NURS 385, NURS 485, NURS 495, and NURS 585
4) Nursing practice exemplars illustrating competency of Learner Outcomes
5) Samples of course work from various terms
6) Other documents you select that illustrate your progress in meeting learning goals
7) Resume and cover letter for prospective employment opportunities
8) Competency Checklist

**NOTE:** In order to assist you in identifying relevant portfolio documents, your course outlines will indicate assignments considered appropriate for inclusion with the following wording: THIS ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN YOUR PORTFOLIO

It is your responsibility to retain copies of all signed Practice Summative Evaluation forms, throughout your program, for inclusion in the “Growth and Development Competency Portfolio”. 