**Academic Writing Expectations Checklist**

**Capstone Level – NURS 4220**

**Overall expectations for Capstone Level Writing (in addition to AWE 4000 below)**

* Demonstrate a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose.
* Use appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's understanding, and shaping the whole work.
* Employ the revision process and take responsibility for proofreading for writing errors before submission.
* The capstone must demonstrate detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s) including
* Show organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices.
* Demonstrate skillful use of high quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing. (All references are cited correctly in addition to the BSN Top Ten)
* Use appropriate and persuasive language that communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free.

**AWE Level 4000 Writing Expectations**

The items noted below are areas where you can improve. Click the links to access Writing Center resources:

Sentence-level skills

Using commas appropriately. See examples of the different [comma uses](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/punctuation/commas).

Ensuring that pronouns match their nouns. See this discussion of [noun-pronoun agreement](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/nounpronounagreement).

Proofreading for grammar, mechanics, and spelling. Read these [proofreading tips](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/writingprocess/proofreading).

**Comments:**



Paragraph-level skills

Focusing each paragraph on one central idea (rather than multiple ideas). See an explanation of how [topic sentences](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/paragraphs/topicsentences) work.

Ordering sentences logically in a paragraph. See an explanation of how the [MEAL plan](http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/assets/meal_plan.pdf) builds a strong paragraph.

**Comments:**



Essay-level skills

Structuring the paper (with an introduction, body, and conclusion). See an explanation of [outlining](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/writingprocess/outlining) a paper to plan organization.

Making an overall argument. See description and examples of [thesis statements](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/writingprocess/thesisstatements).

Using transitions to guide the reader and show relationships. See a guide to [transitional phrases](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/paragraphs/transitions).

**Comments:**



Awareness of audience and discipline

Writing in an academic voice. See the different facets of an appropriately formal [tone](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/scholarlyvoice/tone).

Formatting the paper according to APA style guidelines. See [the course paper template](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/templates/general) for correct margins, spacing, font, and more.

**Comments:**



Use of evidence

Using readings, statistics, or data to effectively support a claim. See examples of [integrating evidence](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/evidence/integrate) in a paper.

Avoiding quotes. If used enclosing direct quotes in quotation marks. Read about the purpose of [quotation marks](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/punctuation/quotationmarks).

Paraphrasing to avoid plagiarizing the source. See [paraphrasing strategies](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/evidence/paraphrase/effective). (Paraphrase rather than quote -only one short quote)

Use the most [current evidence](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/assignments/nursing) (usually ≤ 5 years old).

**Comments:**



Credit to source

Using in-text citations appropriately. See examples of [citations](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/apa/citations/intextparenthetical) in APA style.

Setting up your reference list at the end of the paper or discussion post. See this [reference list overview](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/apa/references).

Formatting the reference entries according to APA style. See common [reference examples](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/apa/references/examples) here.

**Comments:**



Capstone – [Refinement of Writing](http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/undergraduate/capstone)

**Comments:**

