



Department of Nursing - BSN Degree Requirements

NURSING MAJOR, BSN DEGREE

A. General Education Core Requirements/38credits

See General Education Requirements

PHIL 315 is required for General Education Goal 12

MATH 171 is recommended for General Education Goal 5

SOCL 101 or 102 or PSYC 101 is recommended for General Education Goal 8

B. Additional Degree Requirements/7credits

BIOL 121 The Unity of Life/4 credits

SOCL 331 Social Gerontology/3 credits

C. Major Requirements/74credits

BIOL 206 Anatomy and Physiology I/4 credits

BIOL 207 Anatomy and Physiology II/4 credits

BIOL 304 Microbiology/ 5credits

EDUC 245 Growth and Development/3 credits

NURS 100 Intro to Nursing and the Health Care System/3 credits

NURS 210 Health Assessment Across the Lifespan/3 credits

NURS 220 Clinical Skills for Nursing Practice/3 credits

NURS 230 Foundations of Nursing Practice/4 credits

NURS 310 Principles of Pathophysiology/4 credits

NURS 320 Principles of Pharmacology/3 credits

NURS 330 Nursing Care of Children and Their Families/4 credits

NURS 340 Nursing Care of Adults and Families/4 credits

NURS 350 Maternal and Newborn Nursing/4 credits

NURS 360 Intro to Research and Evidence Based Practice/3 credits

NURS 370 Nursing Care of the Older Adult/1 credit

NURS 392 Nursing Care of Patients with Complex Health Problems/3 credits

NURS 410 Nursing Care of Patients with Psychiatric/Mental Health Problems/4 credits

NURS 420 Community Health Nursing/4 credits

NURS 430 Health Care Policy and Regulation/3 credits

NURS 440 Managing for Safety and Quality Outcomes/3 credits

NURS 492 Transition to Professional Practice Practicum/6 credits

(1 credit satisfies General Education Goal 14)

D. General Electives/1 credit

1 elective credit

E. Total credits required for BSN in Nursing/120

NURSING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

General Education Courses *

Writing Intensive Course WR

Speaking Intensive Course SP

NOTE: Admission to the Bachelor of Nursing Program is a prerequisite for all nursing courses.

NURS 100. *Introduction to Nursing and the Health Care System.* This course traces the origins and major milestones in the history of professional nursing and the US health care system. It explores the contributions of major historical figures in nursing and the social context that influenced their work. The course also provides an overview of how health care in the US is organized and financed, and the impact of legislative and regulatory

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processes on issues of affordability, equity and access to health care. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor if not admitted to the BSN program. 3 credits. SP

NURS 210. *Health Assessment Across the Lifespan.* This course introduces the student to the theoretical knowledge and skills necessary to perform a comprehensive health assessment on children, adults and the elderly. The nursing process is introduced as a tool to guide data collection through a comprehensive culturally sensitive history, physical examination, and documentation of findings. Prerequisites: BIOL 206 and 207. Two lecture and one two hour lab period. 3 credits.

NURS 220. *Clinical Skills for Nursing Practice.* This course focuses on the acquisition of foundational clinical and communication skills needed to provide safe quality patient care. Emphasis is placed on the theoretical underpinnings of individual skills and the clinical reasoning necessary to properly select and use psychomotor skills and patient care technology. Principles of effective communication with patients of varying ages and cultures are also introduced. Students are encouraged to explore the research evidence available to support the use of various skills in patient care. Prerequisites: BIOL 206 and 207. One lecture and four laboratory hours. 3 credits.

NURS 230. *Foundations of Nursing Practice.* This course examines selected nursing principles, concepts and skills that are central to patient care delivery. The nursing process is used as a framework for exploring the role of the professional nurse in patient care management. The emphasis is on the nurse's role as direct and indirect provider of safe patient centered care that incorporates health promotion, clinical prevention, and basic illness care with adult and elderly patients. Clinical and simulation experiences provide students with opportunities to apply theory, communication strategies, assessment and psychomotor skills in the care of patients in various settings. Prerequisites: NURS 210 and 220. Three lecture periods weekly and a total of 56 clinical hours. 4 credits.

NURS 310. *Principles of Pathophysiology.* This course examines the pathophysiologic factors that contribute to common disease processes affecting individuals across the lifespan. The influences of environment, genetics, and lifestyle choices that lead to increased disease susceptibility, morbidity and mortality are discussed along with the cultural differences that influence an individual's understanding of disease and response to it. Prerequisites: NURS 210, 220 and 230. Four lecture periods. 4 credits.

NURS 320. *Principles of Pharmacology.* This course establishes a foundation about pharmacology and the use of drugs to manage common diseases and conditions. It focuses on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of common drugs and how they are used to modify body systems. Lifespan variations are discussed as well as the implications for patient teaching and monitoring. Economic, political and ethical issues related to drug development and marketing are explored. Prerequisites: NURS 210, 220 and 230. Three lecture periods. 3 credits.

NURS 330. *Nursing Care of Children and Their Families.* This course focuses on the nursing care of infants, children, adolescents and their families as they face normal developmental challenges and common diseases and conditions. Emphasis is placed on the use of the nursing process to assess physical and developmental needs; promote health and prevent illness and injury; and assist patients and families to adapt to acute and chronic illness challenges. Actual and simulated clinical experiences take place in various settings and support the continued development of cognitive, psychomotor and interpersonal skills necessary to provide safe, high quality care. Prerequisites: NURS 210, 220 and 230. Three lecture periods weekly and a total of 56 clinical hours. 4 credits.

NURS 340. *Nursing Care of Adults and Families.* This course focuses on the knowledge base necessary to provide safe, high quality care to adults experiencing common acute and chronic health problems. The course blends knowledge from pathophysiology, pharmacology and disease management into a comprehensive plan for culturally sensitive care that integrates current evidence for best practices management. The impact of major diseases on patients and families is explored with an emphasis on the nurse's role in health promotion, symptom management and beginning interprofessional collaboration for effective care management. Simulated and actual clinical experiences take place in a variety of settings. Prerequisites: NURS 310 and 320. Three lecture periods weekly and a total of 56 clinical hours. 4 credits.

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NURS 350. *Maternal and Newborn Nursing.* This course focuses on the nursing management of normal and high risk pregnancies from the period of conception through infancy, with an emphasis on health promotion and risk reduction. The nursing process is used to appropriately assess childbearing women and their families and select appropriate interventions to meet their physical and emotional needs. Particular attention is given to identifying evidence based interventions to support quality care. The actual and simulated clinical experiences assist students to develop increasing skill in providing high quality, compassionate care to patients from a wide range of cultures and traditions about childbearing. Prerequisites: NURS 210, 220 and 230. Three lecture periods weekly and a total of 56 clinical hours. 4 credits.

NURS 360. *Introduction to Research and Evidence Based Practice.* This course provides an overview of nursing and health care related research and evidence based practice. It introduces the basic skills and knowledge necessary to critically read research studies and conduct systematic literature reviews using established data bases. Basic principles of study design are presented and ethical issues in the conduct of research with patients and families are emphasized. The challenges of translating research evidence into practice are explored. Prerequisites: Third year status in the nursing program and MATH 171 or 270. Three lecture periods. 3 credits. WR

NURS 370. *Nursing Care of the Older Adult.* This course supplements the content presented in SOCL 331 by adding a nursing care management perspective to the discussion of the issues of aging in American society and culture. The course focuses on assessment and intervention with older adults experiencing normal aging or common aging related health problems and the role of the nurse in health promotion, risk reduction, and disease management for this population. Co- or Prerequisites: NURS 340 and SOCL 331 or permission of instructor. Two lecture periods every other week. 1 credit.

NURS 392. *Nursing Care of Patients with Complex Health Problems.* This course focuses on the care of patients who are experiencing complex health problems. Case studies are used to integrate prior learning about the pathophysiologic basis of disease and its medical and pharmacologic management, and to discuss care challenges in depth. The course emphasizes the role of direct and indirect care provider but also expands the student's focus to include issues related to coordination of care, interprofessional collaboration, quality and safety. Clinical experiences take place with an assigned preceptor or as part of a precepted summer externship. Prerequisites: NURS 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360 and 370. Six lecture periods for five weeks and 56 clinical hours. 3 credits.

NURS 410. *Nursing Care of Patients with Psychiatric/Mental Health Problems.* This course focuses on the nursing care of persons with acute and chronic mental health and psychiatric disorders. The nursing process is used as a tool for assessing, planning, and implementing care and evaluating outcomes. Emphasis is placed on the biopsychosocial origins of mental illness, the available research evidence to support current practice, and the importance of effective interprofessional teams. Clinical experiences will take place in a variety of settings. Prerequisite: NURS 392. Three lecture periods and 56 clinical hours. 4 credits.

NURS 420. *Community Health Nursing.* This course focuses on the application of epidemiologic and public health principles to work with individuals, families, groups and other aggregates in a community setting. The nursing process is used as a framework for assessing community needs and providing interventions and services targeted at disease prevention, health promotion and protection. The influence of political, socioeconomic, cultural and environmental issues on the health of populations is examined. Prerequisite: NURS 392. Three lecture periods and 56 clinical hours. 4 credits. WR

NURS 430. *Health Care Policy and Regulation.* This course presents the broad context of health policy and law and the way policy is formulated. It emphasizes the social, ethical and political issues that affect the delivery of health services, particularly the impact of policy decisions on professional nursing practice. It also provides an overview of the maze of regulatory agencies that influence and control practice, particularly as they relate to issues of quality and safety. Prerequisites: NURS 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360 and 370 or permission of the instructor. Three lecture periods. 3 credits. SP



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NURS 440. *Managing for Safety and Quality Outcomes.* This course focuses on the knowledge and skills needed by the entry level nurse for the safe and effective management of patient care. The course considers nursing practice from the staff nurse and middle management perspective with an emphasis on creating a culture of quality, safety and ongoing improvement. Theories of change, complexity, organizational design, horizontal leadership, coalition building and conflict management are introduced. The use and analysis of outcome data as evidence for practice change is stressed. Simulated scenarios are used to apply course content. Prerequisites: NURS 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360 and 370. Three lecture periods. 3 credits.

NURS 492. *Transition to Professional Practice Practicum.* This course consists of a 280 hour clinical practicum experience with an experienced clinical preceptor. It assists students to begin the transition to the practice world and refines their clinical skills, particularly in the areas of decision making, organizing and managing care to groups of patients, setting priorities, and delegating care responsibilities appropriately. The focus of the course remains on the professional role of care provider, but there is increased emphasis on the role of care coordinator and manager, and the opportunity to develop a more mature identity as a member of the nursing profession. Students are challenged to integrate all prior learning and function collaboratively as an effective participant on the interprofessional care team. A weekly seminar parallels the clinical experience and explores current practical issues in job search, licensure, and adjusting to the demands of the practice environment. Prerequisites: All required clinical courses in the nursing major. One 75 minute lecture period for 10 weeks, 280 clinical hours. 6 credits.