

Nursing

Chair: Dr. Lisa Devineni

The Nursing Program prepares generalists in nursing to assist individuals, families, and aggregates toward the goal of health throughout life. A baccalaureate education in nursing provides each student with the knowledge base for practicing professional nursing. The curriculum is based on a liberal arts foundation in the Judeo-Christian tradition and utilizes a caring perspective for its organizing framework. Professional nursing is an art and a science which involves a commitment to human caring. Nursing is an interpersonal process that includes promoting, protecting, and restoring wellness, and helping persons to die a peaceful death, as well as caring for individuals and groups who are experiencing illness. Upon completion of the curriculum, the graduate possesses a foundation for graduate study. The program has full approval by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. A graduate is eligible to sit for the R.N. licensure exam.

The RN-BSN program is designed for practicing registered nurses who desire to further their professional education. This program has separate courses for the RN student following completion of 50 general and prerequisite credits.

Progression and continuance in the Nursing program are based upon scholastic achievement, health maintenance, and adherence to Saint Francis University policies. In addition, Nursing majors must adhere to the Nursing Department policies as stated in the current Student Handbook. Transfer students are required to have an interview with the Nursing Department.

A minimum grade of "C" in the prerequisite social and natural science courses must be earned by Nursing majors. Nursing students must achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 before taking the first laboratory/clinical nursing course (NURS 300), the student must maintain a GPA of 2.75 minimum before entering NURS 300, a minimum of 2.6 in the natural sciences, pass the math proficiency exam, and must meet all other requirements stated in the current Student Handbook.

Progression within the Nursing major requires the Nursing student to earn a minimum of a "C" grade in each of the Nursing courses. The grading scale for the Nursing Department is as follows: A = 92-100; B = 86-91; C = 80-85; D = 75-79, and F = 0-74.

Students must provide their own transportation to clinical sites.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Nursing 100, 200, 201, 300, 301, 302, 303, 311, 316, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 410, 411, 412, 416, and two credits of Nursing or Nursing/Health electives; Chemistry 103; Biology 111, 205, 206, 214; Sociology 101; Statistics 101; Psychology 101.

R.N.-BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Following Pennsylvania's articulation plan, the RN student who meets admissions requirements will receive 32 nursing articulation credits primarily for junior-year nursing courses and would need to complete 30 nursing credits. Nursing 200, 201, 202, 300, 301, 302, 303, 311, 316, 402, 403, 405, 406, 410, 411, 412, 416, and four credits of Nursing or Nursing/Health electives; Chemistry 103; Biology 111, 205, 206, 214; Statistics 101; Sociology 101; Psychology 101. Prior to taking Nursing 202, students must have satisfied the following prerequisites: current Pennsylvania licensure as a registered nurse, and graduation from an NLN-accredited program in the last ten years with 1,000 hours employment as RN in previous three years if graduated more than three years ago from date of admission, and a minimum QPA of 2.5. The student will be granted 32 nursing credits following the completion of 50 general and prerequisite credits, NURS 202, and NURS 406. The following nursing courses are articulated: Nursing 200, 201, 300, 301, 302, 303, 311, 316, 402. In addition, the RN student can challenge Nursing 416, and nurses with extensive experience can challenge and make a portfolio for the parts of the Nursing 406 course. RNs who graduated from a non-accredited school are required to pass two NLN profile exams and demonstrate a satisfactory clinical base to achieve 32 articulated credits. A nurse without nursing experience in the last five years must take a nursing refresher course before taking NURS 202.

SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Coordinator: Dr. Jean Samii

This is a 14 credit post-baccalaureate program. All courses are on the graduate level.

Admissions Requirements. Applicant must be a licensed registered nurse in Pennsylvania and must have a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Students must have two English and two math undergraduate courses. This program is state-accredited and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. After successful completion the candidate is recommended for certification by the University's Department of Education to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be a certified school nurse.

Application Procedures. Candidates apply for admission through the Department of Nursing. Persons enrolled in the program must have current CPR certificate, physical examination, Act 34 and 151 clearances, and a copy of current Pennsylvania RN licensure on file. The student eligible for the program must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 at the undergraduate level.

Grading Policies. The student must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the program. If a student falls below a 3.0 GPA in the School Nurse Certificate Program, the student will go on a provisional status.

Advisement. Academic advisement will be provided by a Nursing Department faculty member.

Prerequisites. This includes current nursing practice. The nurse must have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours in the last five (5) years or must take a nurse refresher course before taking NURS 502. The student must evidence having taken a community nursing course, research critique skills, and health assessment skills.

The School Nurse Certification Program consists of four courses: EDUC 511 (3 credits), EDUC 556 (3 credits), NURS 501 (3 credits) and Nursing 502 (5 credits). NURS 501 and 502 (Theory) are offered in an accelerated format every other week. Part of N502 theory is done by distance learning. All are graduate level courses. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires a minimum of 100 hours of clinical practice with a certified school nurse.

NURSING — COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

100. Introduction to Professional Nursing (1 credit)

The student is introduced to essential theories, concepts and values of the nursing profession. Emphasis is placed on caring from a personal and professional perspective. The student is socialized into the profession and introduced to the American Nurses Association Standards of Professional Performance. Ethics and values associated with caring in professional nursing are examined. Open to those considering nursing as a major. Required of nursing majors. *Prerequisite: Completion of 12 credits and declared nursing major, registered for at least two core courses or collateral requirements. Fall, possibly Spring.*

200. Nursing Assessment of the Person (2 credits)

Course provides the student with beginning knowledge and skills needed to assess the health status of the person from infancy through old age. The physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual dimensions of the person are assessed as well as factors that influence health and wellness including multi-generational genetic history. Attention is placed on distinguishing normal from abnormal findings and judging the functional abilities of the person using Gordon's Functional Health Patterns. Nursing assessment provides a database for future identification of nursing diagnoses and a nursing care plan. The course includes clinical laboratory time following the theoretical component. *Prerequisites: Nursing 100, Biology 205, 214, Chemistry 103, Psychology 101, Sociology 101, successful completion of math proficiency test. Corequisites: Nursing 201, Biology 206. Spring, and occasionally in the Fall with NURS 300 for qualified students.*

201. Health and the Developing Person (3 credits)

This course focuses on the continuing, evolving changes that occur throughout the life of the person as he/she interrelates with the environment. These changes are identified within the perspective of Gordon's topology of 11 functional health patterns. Concepts from the natural, behavioral, and social sciences provide the students with a framework for identifying commonly experienced biological, psychosocial, moral, and spiritual developmental changes experienced by individuals. Implications for health promotion and anticipatory guidance for the various age groups are addressed. *Prerequisites: Nursing 100, Biology 205, Psychology 101, Sociology 101. Corequisites: Nursing 200, Biology 206. Spring.*

202. Perspectives in Professional Nursing (3 credits) (RN students only)

This course focuses on nursing as a profession and the professional's socialization for practice. Nursing as an art and science with a focus on human caring will be presented. This is the RN bridge course that can be taken after 50 general and prerequisite credits are completed. *Spring.*

300. Fundamentals of Human Care Nursing (4 credits)

This course focuses on the nursing roles of caregiver, teacher and advocate. The student learns theory and evidence-based intervention skills fundamental to the practice of professional nursing. The caring concepts are introduced and utilized with individuals. Beginning skills in therapeutic communication are developed to establish a caring presence. The student is introduced to diagnostic reasoning, simulations, and learns to apply all elements of nursing process in a clinical setting. *Prerequisites: Nursing 200, 201. Corequisites: Nursing 301, 311, 316. Fall.*

301. Care of Childbearing Families (4 credits)

In this course, students focus on theory and clinical practice related to the care of childbearing families. The human experience of pregnancy and childbirth is examined from a caring perspective and applied to nursing practice. Clinical in a maternity unit (nursery, postpartum, gyne, labor and delivery) and clinics. Lab simulations. Students will examine factors influencing conception, pregnancy and birth (e.g. genetics, therapeutic nutrition, perinatal loss and fertility). Students discuss the effects that culture, society, technology, and economics have on childbearing and reproductive health. *Prerequisites: Nursing 200, 201. Corequisites: Nursing 300, 311, 316. Fall.*

302. Care of Adults with Acute Alterations in Health (4 credits)

In this course, students learn and apply theory and caring concepts related to the care of adults with acute alterations in health. Care is examined within various cultural contexts. The student is introduced to evidence-based practice. Lab simulations. Clinical in a hospital setting. *Prerequisite: Nursing 300, 316. Corequisites: Nursing 303, 416. Spring.*

303. Care of Children (4 credits)

In this course, students learn and apply theory and caring concepts related to the care of children. The nurse begins to integrate genetics and evidence-based practices in nursing care. Includes children with health alterations, promoting and protecting health, maximizing optimal functioning and working with families. Lab simulations. Clinical in hospital and community settings. *Prerequisite: Nursing 300, 301. Corequisites: Nursing 302, 416. Spring.*

311. Human Nutrition (3 credits)

This course provides basic information regarding human nutrition and its relationship to wellness. Emphasis is placed on normal nutritional needs of individuals throughout life. Attention is directed to nutrition in clinical practice, presenting nutritional therapy for enteral and parenteral nutrition, metabolic stress, gastrointestinal disorders, cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, renal cancer and HIV/AIDS as well as global, national, state and community nutritional needs, problems. Open to other health majors who meet the prerequisites. The increasing problems of obesity and strategies to reduce it will be addressed. *Prerequisites: Chemistry 103, Biology 206. Corequisites: Nursing 300, 301. Fall.*

316. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I (4 credits)

The student acquires a basic knowledge of pathophysiology and pharmacology for utilization in the professional practice of nursing. The effects of disease are viewed from a spirit-mind-body perspective. The course examines various disease processes, their treatment modalities with emphasis on appropriate pharmacological interventions. *Prerequisites: Nursing 300, 301. Corequisites: Nursing 300/301. Fall.*

333. Nursing/Health Elective: Aspects of Thanatology (2 credits)

The focus of this course will be on concepts relative to death and dying from a caring perspective. *Prerequisite: None. Open to all majors. As needed.*

334. Nursing Elective: Principles of Cross Cultural Nursing (2 credits) (RN students only)

This seminar course examines the influence of cultural backgrounds, beliefs, values, and practices on the health of individuals, families, and aggregates. The role of the nurse in maximizing wellness is addressed in relation to various ethnic cultures and subcultures. Emphasis on cultural diversity assists the nursing student to acquire a global perspective on issues dealing with the health and well-being of people. *Prerequisite: Matriculation in the RN-BSN program. As needed.*

335. Nursing/Health Elective: Intimate Human Behavior (2 credits)

The focus of this course is the exploration of concepts of intimacy and sexuality. The human experience of intimacy and sexual expression and its relationship to health is examined. Implications for the nurse and other health care providers are addressed. *Prerequisite: None. Open to all majors. As needed.*

337. Nursing/Health Elective: Addictions and Compulsions (2 credits)

The goal of this course is to provide a basic survey of theory, concepts, and practices relevant to addictive behavior, compulsive acts, dependency needs, and the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. A caring nursing perspective is utilized. The historical aspects and current epidemiological patterns of substance abuse and other addictive behaviors are presented. The individual, familial and societal effects of addictive and dependent behavior are emphasized. *Prerequisites: None. Open to all majors. As needed.*

**338. Nursing Elective:
Nursing in a Foreign Country
(2 credits)**

This course examines professional nursing in a selected country, viewing it within its cultural context and from ethnic, political, geographic, educational, and economic perspectives. Nursing's commitment to caring, its professional development, and the nursing roles which are employed in the delivery of that country's health care are studied. A trip to the foreign country comprises the focal point of this course. *Prerequisite: Nursing 300. As needed.*

**339. Nursing:
Spiritual Dimensions in Nursing Practice
(2 credits)**

The course focuses on the concept of spirituality and its relationship to caring and healing. Spirituality in nursing is addressed from a historical, contemporary and personal perspective. The student examines the impact of his/her own spiritual self-awareness on client care. Includes the nurse's role in supporting the person who is searching to find meaning and purpose in the midst of suffering. Evidence-based nursing practices for supporting patients' spirituality and health are studied. Development of the nurses role as a culturally competent caregiver through the examination of spiritual and religious beliefs and health care practices of diverse populations. *Prerequisite: Nursing 300 or matriculation in RN-BSN program. As needed.*

**401. Care of Individuals With Life-Threatening Alterations in Health
(4 credits)**

Focuses on theory and evidence-based clinical practice related to the care of individuals with life threatening alterations in health. The student examines and applies the basic principles of critical care nursing theory from a caring perspective. Includes nursing and collaborative management of patients with shock, SIRS, and multisystem dysfunctions. Hemodynamic monitoring and EKG interpretation skills are acquired and applied to practice. Uses concept mapping and case studies to further critical thinking skills. *Prerequisites: Nursing 302, 303, 316, 416. Corequisites: Senior standing. Fall.*

**402. Care of Individuals with Alterations in Psychiatric/Mental Health
(4 credits)**

The course focuses on theory and clinical practice related to the care of individuals with alterations in psychiatric/mental health. Evidence-based nursing practices and caring concepts are applied to individuals with acute and chronic psychiatric/mental health disorders. *Prerequisites: Nursing 301, 302, 303, 316. Corequisites: Senior standing. Fall or Spring.*

**403. Nursing Research
(3 credits)**

Provides an introduction to the research process and to quantitative and qualitative nursing research. Enables the student to critically read and appraise the research that others have conducted and to apply research findings to evidence-based nursing practice. The student writes a research proposal. *Prerequisites: Statistics 101, Nursing 302, 303, 316, 416. Corequisites: Senior standing. Fall or Spring.*

**404. Care of Individuals with Chronic Alterations in Health
(4 credits)**

The course focuses on theory and clinical practice related to individuals with chronic alterations in health. The human experience of chronicity with all its implications is examined from a caring perspective for application to nursing practice. *Prerequisites: Nursing 401, 410, 416. Corequisites: Nursing 402, 403, 405, 411. Spring.*

**405. Care of Human Communities
(4 credits)**

The course focuses on theory and clinical practice related to the care of human communities and vulnerable populations. Principles of epidemiology, environmental health and safety are included. Selected cultures are discussed and global health needs and comparisons are addressed. Caring concepts and evidence-based practices are applied in the home and community settings. *Corequisites: Nursing 401. Senior standing. Fall or Spring.*

**406. Advanced Concepts
(6 credits) (RN-only course.)**

Course focuses on advanced concepts related to the care of individuals/families experiencing alterations in life-threatening and chronic health. Caring philosophy will be implemented, and these problems will be examined primarily using a case study approach. Clinical is based on individual educational needs. *Prerequisite: Nursing 202. Corequisites: Nursing 416*

**410. Nursing Management/Leadership Theory
(3 credits)**

This course focuses on principles of nursing management and leadership within a caring framework for the practice of nursing. Decision making, critical thinking, change, motivation, management process, operational skills and more are studied. *Corequisite: Senior standing. Fall.*

411. Nursing Management/Leadership Practicum (2 credits)

This course enables the student to implement beginning management and leadership skills for use in the creation of a caring environment. The student is directly supervised by a preceptor. *Prerequisites: Completion of first term of senior year. Corequisite: Second term of senior year. Fall or Spring.*

412. Professional Nursing Seminar (2 credits)

This course focuses on issues related to the role of the nurse as a member of a profession. Emphasis is placed on professionalism, contemporary issues, and futuristic trends in order to identify strategies that impact on nursing as a caring profession. *Corequisites: Senior Standing. Fall.*

416. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II (3 credits)

The student acquires further knowledge of pathophysiology and pharmacology for utilization in the professional practice of nursing. The effects of disease are viewed from a body-mind-spirit perspective. The course examines various disease processes, their treatment modalities with emphasis on appropriate pharmacological interventions. *Prerequisite: Nursing 316. Corequisites: Nursing 302, Spring.*

437. Nursing Elective: Advanced Pharmacology in Nursing Practice (2 credits)

This course focuses on the nursing management of individuals receiving various types of pharmacological therapy. The student uses the case study format to examine the use and effects of various drug classifications in the management of illness. *Prerequisite: Nursing 302, 316. Fall.*

441. Nursing Elective: Ethical Issues in Nursing (2 credits)

An introduction to the ethical dilemmas confronting the nurse in today's society. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own values as well as to examine current health issues from an ethical perspective. Emphasis will be placed on the ethical decision-making process and moral reasoning. Current legislation, political controversies, and economic constraints that affect the caring attitude of the professional nurse will be addressed. *Prerequisites: Nursing 302, 303. As needed.*

455. Nursing Elective: Nursing Informatics (2 credits)

Provides opportunity for the nurse to acquire and apply knowledge and skills from computer sciences to the health care field. *Senior standing.*

499. Special Topics (1-3 credits each)

Exploration of special topics in such areas as determined by faculty and student interest. *Prerequisites: vary according to course. Fall, Spring.* Senior nursing students are eligible to take Physical Therapy 553, Special Topics: Interdisciplinary problem-based Learning (2 credits) with PT, OT, and PA majors. This is equal to a nursing elective for nursing majors. Allows additional opportunity to explore an area of interest and advanced study. Involves work with small group with faculty mentor. *Spring.*

501. Health Education and Wellness (3 credits) (School Nurse Certificate Program Course)

In this course the student will focus on health education needs, and health promotion-disease prevention programs for children in the school system and their families. This course will identify methods of maximizing wellness of individuals and families. It will identify methods of assessment, development, management, and evaluation of health programs.

502. School Nurse Theory and Practice (5 credits) (School Nurse Certificate Program)

This is the capstone course in the program, consisting of three credits of theory and two credits of school nurse practice (100 hours). This course examines in-depth the role of the school nurse in the school setting. It focuses on the student in relation to the school and community. It identifies the nurses' responsibility for enhancing the students' learning in relation to health promotion/disease prevention, maintenance of health, and maximizing the children's potential and wellness. The course will provide opportunities for identification and implementation of strategies to keep children well and in the classroom. The focus is on the school community with emphasis on the student and family. Cultural and environmental issues specific to health of the school community will be addressed. Students will have practice in primary and secondary school settings and secondary school settings with opportunities to develop plans for special needs children.