RN-BSN
Academic Policies and Procedures

2015 - 2016

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Degree Requirements

A full statement of the School of Nursing’s baccalaureate degree requirements is printed in the Undergraduate Record. The basic requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in the School of Nursing are:

Completion of 120 semester-hours of course work with an average of “C” or a grade-point average of 2.0. Of these 120 hours, 49 hours must be general education and/or elective nursing courses. The remaining 71 credit hours will consist of a combination of required nursing courses, of which, 41 credit hours will be granted as advanced standing hours after the completion of NUCO 4420: Foundations of Professional Nursing.

Area Requirements

All students in the School of Nursing must fulfill basic area requirements. Unless you are exempt or have received Advanced Placement credit or transfer credit for work done prior to matriculating to the University, required course work must be done for a letter grade (NOT Credit/No Credit or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory). Courses numbered 1700 and 1710 do NOT fulfill area requirements.

1. **English Composition** (3 credits)

2. **Second Writing Requirement** (SWR): 3 credits: In addition to the first writing requirement, all nursing students must complete this requirement with a grade of C- or better. RN to BSN students satisfy the Second Writing Requirement upon completion of NUCO 4420, Foundations of Professional Nursing, a 4-credit course within the two-year program.

3. **Natural Science and Math**: (12 semester hours) Acceptable choices for the remaining credits include courses from the departments of Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics (excluding MATH 1000 and MATH 1030), Physics and the Division of Statistics. Students are required to take Anatomy & Physiology and Statistics. Acceptable Statistics courses are found on the SON website. These courses count towards this area requirement.

4. **Social Science and History**: (9 semester hours) Acceptable courses may be chosen from the departments of Afro-American and African Studies, Anthropology, Economics, Art History, Government and Foreign Affairs, History, Linguistics, Psychology, Sociology, and Women’s Studies.

5. **Humanities and Fine Arts**: (9 semester hours) Acceptable courses may be chosen from the departments of Architectural History, Art (and Art History), Classics, Comparative Literature, Drama, English (except ENWR 1505, 1506, 1510 and 2510), Foreign Languages and Literature, Music, Philosophy, and Religious Studies.
6. **Electives:** (to total 49 general education and/or elective nursing hours) Courses (up to 7 semester hours) in physical education or skills courses such as studio art or music performance may be transferred in toward these elective credit requirements. A maximum of 2 semester hour credits of physical education may be transferred in. MATH 1000 and MATH 1030 and USEM courses may be counted as electives.

7. **NOTE:** Forty-one credits of advanced standing will be awarded to students for prior nursing courses and experience, including the required lifespan, pharmacology, and assessment credits. Therefore, these courses, along with other core nursing courses do not count towards the 49 general education electives listed above.

Completion of the prescribed professional nursing course of study as listed in the Undergraduate Record with a final cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

**RN to BSN Precepted Practicum Course**

One practicum course is offered in the RN to BSN program. This course is offered in the second fall semester of the program. Students will be asked to provide input into their practicum experiences at the end of the preceding spring semester, so that these experiences can be in the planning phase over the summer break. A list of agencies where we currently have clinical contracts can be found at: [http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/its/ClinicalContracts/default.asp](http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/its/ClinicalContracts/default.asp). Students may have the option of completing their practicum experience in the summer at an international site. Guidelines for this international option are found under “Course Information”.

**Program of Study**

All courses in the RN to BSN Program are classroom based. The RN to BSN program is a part-time program to be completed in sequence, over 5 semesters. The anticipated sequence of courses is provided below.

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisites are built into this sequence to facilitate success in each of these courses.

**University Elective:** One 3 credit hour elective is required of all RN to BSN students. Students may take this course at any time over the 5 semesters, but this course must be taken at the University of Virginia. Possible selections are included in the table that follows. Students who wish to pursue independent study or the Distinguished Majors electives, should consult with their advisor as soon as possible. Select SON elective graduate courses may be taken to meet this requirement. Graduate level course grading scale applies (see below). Core graduate courses are reserved for students enrolled in graduate programs.

**Graduate Level Courses:** To receive graduate credit for graduate courses, students must earn a B or better in the course. To receive credit for the RN to BSN program, students must earn a C or better in the course. The graduate grading scale is used for these courses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester(s) Offered</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Prerequisite(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUCO 4420: Foundations of Professional Nursing</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RN-BSN</td>
<td>admission to RN-BSN nursing program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUCO 4450 -- Population &amp; Public Health Nursing Perspectives (3)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>RN-BSN</td>
<td>NUCO 4420; NUIP 4610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUCO 4440 -- Trends and Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice (3)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RN-BSN</td>
<td>NUCO 4420; NUCO 4450; NUIP 4200; NUIP 4610</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUIP 4610: Leadership and Management in Health Care Systems</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RN-BSN</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUIP 4200: Pathophysiology</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>RN-BSN</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUIP 4003: Exploring Cultural and Healthcare Access through Remote Area Medicine</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUIP 4008: Strategies Prehospital Care for RNs</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 3005: Perioperative Nursing</td>
<td>Fall and Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 3003: Nursing Leadership in Action</td>
<td>Fall and Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 4007: Ethics in Nursing Practice</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 3006: Oncology &amp; End-of-life Care</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 4950 Distinguished Majors</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 4951 Distinguished Majors II</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>NURS 4950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4993 Independent Study</td>
<td>Fall and Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 3004: Introduction to Resilience in Nursing Practice</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 4006 Practicum in Clinical Leadership Development</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 4005: Sleep Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNUR 6056: Health Policy: Local to Global</td>
<td>Summer, Classroom (not online)</td>
<td>RN to BSN, Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNUR 6052: Epidemiology &amp; Global Health (3)</td>
<td>Spring, Classroom (not online)</td>
<td>RN to BSN, Graduate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GNUR 5410 -- Theory and Evidence-Based Practice (4)</td>
<td>Spring, Classroom (not online)</td>
<td>RN to BSN, Graduate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select graduate electives – discuss with faculty advisor</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Graduate (see previous information regarding electives)</td>
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Course Information

Fall Semester Course Descriptions

**NUCO 4420 - (4) (F)**
*Foundations of Professional Nursing*

**Prerequisite:** Admission to RN to BSN Program

This course is the first course for students enrolled in the RN to BSN program. The course validates prior learning from the student’s basic nursing program and fosters growth in professionalism in nursing. Course content includes standardized taxonomies, interprofessional collaboration, career exploration, and development of skills in information technology, professional writing and presentation. Emphasis is on identifying and analyzing scholarly literature, critical thinking and analysis, and refining communication skills through written and oral presentations. NOTE: This course qualifies as the Second Writing Requirement for RN to BSN students.

**NUIP 4610 - (3) (Y)**
*Leadership and Management in Health Care Systems*

Leadership and Management in Health Care Systems -- is a three-unit course required of all undergraduate nursing students and offered to other University students interested in health care service delivery. This course is designed to integrate management knowledge and concepts with practical experience within health care situations to prepare students for beginning leadership roles within existing and emerging delivery systems. In the current service delivery environment, knowledge of organizational functioning, finance, and economics is as much a part of professional nursing practice as pathophysiology, pharmacology and patient care interventions. Nursing practice has a profound effect on the cost of health care delivery, yet many nurses have relatively little appreciation of their role in organizational resource consumption and functional success. This class serves as a foundation to explore professional nursing’s vital role in creating the envisioned patient centered, effective health care delivery organization of the future. This course focuses on healthcare delivery organizations and the management, coordination, and implementation of patient care service across a variety of physical settings and units of delivery. The relationships between management, leadership, patient care and professional nursing will be developed to prepare the beginning practitioner for the contemporary service delivery environment.

**NUCO 4440 - (3) (F)**
*Trends and Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice*

**Prerequisites:** NU CO 4420, NUIP 4610, NUCO 4450, NUIP 4200

This is a three-credit course required of all students in the RN to BSN program. This course is intended to expand the student’s understanding of the essentials of baccalaureate generalist practice, trends, and issues in clinical nursing practice. Course content addresses the use of research findings from nursing and related disciplines in improving the health care of individuals, families, and groups. Legal, ethical and political implications of care are considered throughout the course. Practice sites may include acute and chronic health care settings across the life span. Students will explore emerging trends as they relate to their clinical practice.
Summer Semester Course Descriptions

**GNUR 6056 – (Y)**

**Health Policy: Local to Global**

Prerequisites for RN to BSN students: NU CO 4420, NU IP 4610, NU CO 4450, NU IP 4200

This course provides an overview of policy decisions related to the organization, financing, and delivery of health care in the global community. Social, ethical, cultural, economic, and political issues that affect the delivery of health and nursing services are critically analyzed. International models for development of health policies will be examined. Roles of health care providers and consumers of health care services, as well as government and entrepreneurial interests are examined. Emphasis is placed on the impact of policy decisions on professional nursing practice and health services. **NOTE:** To receive graduate credit for graduate courses, students must earn a B or better in the course. To receive credit for the RN to BSN program, students must earn a C or better in the course. The graduate grade scale is used for this course.

Spring Semester Course Descriptions

**NUIP 4200 - (4) (Y)**

**Pathophysiology**

Pathophysiology is a 4 credit interprofessional course required of all students enrolled in the RN-BSN Program. The course expands on a foundation of basic knowledge of common pathophysiologic conditions affecting adults and children and their clinical management.

**NUCO 4450 - (3) (S)**

**Population & Public Health Nursing Perspectives**

Prerequisites: NU CO 4420, NU IP 4610

This three-credit course, required of all students in the RN-BSN track, enhances the student’s application of concepts and processes used in population-focused nursing practice to promote and protect health in communities and populations and respond to public health threats and disasters. Students learn to integrate the nursing process, utilize information technology and examine current evidence to improve the equity, affordability, quality and safety of health care service delivery. Students explore and analyze the relationships between health policy, delivery systems, socio-economic factors, and other determinants of health as they relate to the health of populations at local, regional, national and global levels, especially for vulnerable populations.

**GNUR 6052 – (3) (Y)**

**Epidemiology & World Health**

**Prerequisites for RN to BSN students:** NU CO 4420, NU IP 4610, NU CO 4450, NU IP 4200

This Epidemiology course focuses on the distribution and determinants of health-related states or conditions in specified populations at local through global levels, and on the application of this study to control health problems. Students are presented with epidemiologic models and methods in order to assess the health of individuals and populations and to prevent or control health conditions, diseases, and injuries. Content
emphasizes a local to global perspective and application of methods to improve health care delivery, health policy, human rights and ultimately, health. 

**NOTE:** To receive graduate credit for graduate courses, students must earn a B or better in the course. To receive credit for the RN to BSN program, students must earn a C or better in the course. The graduate grade scale is used for this course.

GNUR 5410 – (4) (Y)  
*Theory and Evidence-Based Practice*  
Prerequisites for RN to BSN students: NUCO 4420, NUIP 4610, NUCO 4450, NUIP 4200,  
This course provides an overview of nursing and health care related theory, research and evidence based practice. Students develop the basic skills and knowledge to critique individual research studies, conduct systematic literature reviews, and use these abilities to address immediate clinical nursing problems. Students learn to identify health outcomes and important related outcome measures. **NOTE:** To receive graduate credit for graduate courses, students must earn a B or better in the course. To receive credit for the RN to BSN program, students must earn a C or better in the course. The graduate grade scale is used for this course.

Special educational opportunities:  
To further expand in their role as a baccalaureate prepared professional nurse, students are encouraged to participate in educational lunch sessions and other school or university sponsored events. These events may include research, historical, policy, and clinical topics of interest to health care providers. Special events can include named lecture series, such as the Bice, Randolph, and McGehee lecture series. Students should be alert to such offerings and participate as their schedules afford them this opportunity.

**RN to BSN International Practicum Experience**  
Practicum Course: NUCO 4440: Trends and Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice (2-0-1-3)  
- Students must complete Spring NUCO 4450: Population and Public Health Nursing Perspectives (as per the RN to BSN Program of Study).  
- The summer International experience counts as the practicum site for NUCO 4440: Trends and Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice. The School of Nursing Registrar will enroll students in a summer course for no credits, no costs. Student will complete 56 hours of clinical practicum at an “international practicum site” with assigned UVA clinical faculty. This clinical faculty member will work with the NUCO 4440 course faculty member to evaluate the student.  
- Student’s choice of site must be minimally disruptive to any additional required course work. If there are conflicts, the student must work with summer faculty to address concerns.  
- Prior to leaving for the practicum experience, the student must meet with NUCO 4440 faculty to review NUCO 4440 practicum objectives and develop a plan to meet these objectives. The practicum faculty member will work with the NUCO 4440 course faculty member to evaluate the student.  
- Fall NUCO 4440 practicum course. Student enrolls in and pays for 3 credit NUCO 4440 course but does not complete additional hours; student will attend clinical conferences with
peers to share their experiences and present a project to peers in NUCO 4440 class (poster/PowerPoint).

RN to BSN Faculty Endorsement: November 2012