NURSING, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.), R.N.-B.S. COMPLETION PROGRAM

The School of Nursing offers the following curricula in the baccalaureate program: the traditional, the accelerated B.S. and the R.N.-B.S. completion. Successful completion of curricular requirements results in a Bachelor of Science degree. Note that the applicant is responsible for seeking advice from the School of Nursing on courses taken prior to admission.

Program goals
Students will achieve an advanced beginner level of nursing competence by demonstrating:

I. Effective therapeutic nursing practice
II. Nursing judgment
III. A spirit of inquiry
IV. Professional identity

Student learning outcomes
The graduate is a knowledgeable professional nurse who will demonstrate:

1. Integration of theories and concepts from liberal education into nursing practice (III)
2. Knowledge, skills and attitudes in leadership, quality improvement and patient safety to provide high quality health care (I, II, IV)
3. Professional nursing practice grounded in the translation of current evidence (I, II, III)
4. Knowledge of skills in information literacy, management and patient care technology (III)
5. Knowledge of health care, financial and regulatory policies that influence the nature and functioning of the health care system (I, II)
6. Effective communication and collaboration skills with the interprofessional team to deliver high quality and safe patient care (I, II, IV)
7. Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population level necessary to improve population health (I, II)
8. Professionalism that reflects the inherent values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity and social justice fundamental to nursing (IV)
9. Competence to practice with patients, including individuals, families, groups, communities and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of health care environments that respects the variations of care, the increased complexity and the use of health care resources inherent in caring for patients (I, II, III, IV)

Other information
Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speakers need to provide additional information according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Be eligible for readmission or be in good standing at the last college attended.
2. Have graduated from a diploma or associate degree program in nursing from a college or university with institutional accreditation.
3. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S. Graduates of international nursing schools who are not licensed in a state, the District of Columbia or a U.S. possession or territory are required to obtain a VisaScreen Certificate issued by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.
4. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university.
5. Complete the following general education courses at an accredited college or university with minimum grades of C.

   a. The following courses (17 credit hours) must be completed prior to enrollment:
      i. Statistics (3)
      ii. Physiology (4)
      iii. Anatomy (4)
      iv. English composition (6)

   b. A minimum of 24 credit hours from the following 36 credits must be completed prior to matriculation. All general education courses must be completed prior to enrolling in the final nursing course:
      i. Introductory psychology (3)
      ii. Developmental psychology (3)
      iii. General sociology (3)
      iv. Laboratory science (8)
      v. Microbiology (4)
      vi. Nutrition (3)
      vii. Philosophy (3)
      viii. Humanities (9)

If the applicant has a bachelor’s degree in another discipline, the University Core Education Curriculum requirements and General Education requirements for the R.N.-B.S. completion program will be met with the previous baccalaureate degree, with the exception of the following courses that must be completed prior to enrollment: anatomy, physiology, microbiology, statistics and developmental psychology.

In addition to the above criteria, highly qualified applicants to the program who meet the following criteria are eligible for guaranteed admission:

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all college courses
2. Minimum grade of B in any nursing class

Degree requirements for Nursing, Bachelor of Science (B.S.), R.N-B.S. completion program

Credits required for admission to program: 53

Major requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 301</td>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 307</td>
<td>Foundations of Professional Nursing I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 308</td>
<td>Foundation of Professional Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 309</td>
<td>Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 403</td>
<td>Evidence-based Practice in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 406</td>
<td>Interprofessional Collaborative Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 407</td>
<td>Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 408</td>
<td>Ethics, Law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 462</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 477</td>
<td>Leadership and Management in Health Care</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 488</td>
<td>Clinical and Management Decision-making (University Core Capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Upper-division proficiency credits awarded after successful completion of NURS 308: 39

Total Hours: 71

Total minimum requirement 124 credits

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Credits required for admission to program: 53

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 301</td>
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<td>NURS 307</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 308</td>
<td>Foundation of Professional Nursing II</td>
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<td>Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<td>Semester 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 403</td>
<td>Evidence-based Practice in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 409</td>
<td>Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 408</td>
<td>Ethics, Law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice</td>
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<td>NURS 462</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 406</td>
<td>Interprofessional Collaborative Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NURS 477 Leadership and Management in Health Care 4 Hours.

Term Hours: 6

Semester 6

NURS 488 Clinical and Management Decision-making 3 Hours.

Term Hours: 3

Total Hours: 32

Upper-division proficiency credits to be awarded after successful completion of NURS 308: 39

Total minimum requirement 124 credits

NURS 301 Nursing Informatics. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. This course focuses on data management and use of information and technology to communicate effectively, provide safe and effective patient care and use research and clinical evidence to inform nursing practice decisions. The course emphasizes information literacy and its application to nursing practice and effective health care delivery. Course delivered online.

NURS 307 Foundations of Professional Nursing I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Corequisite: NURS 301. This course explores historical and contemporary trends influencing professional nursing practice within the U.S. health care system. The course focuses on research within the context of nursing's development as a profession and discipline and within the context of evidence-based practice. The research process and analysis of research studies are emphasized. Course delivered online.

NURS 403 Evidence-based Practice in Health Care. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Corequisite: NURS 301. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.

NURS 408 Ethics, Law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 301 and NURS 307, both with minimum grades of C. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.

NURS 409 Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 301 and NURS 307, both with minimum grades of C. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.

NURS 462 Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Corequisite: NURS 301. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.

NURS 477 Leadership and Management in Health Care. 4 Hours.

Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 301 and NURS 307, both with minimum grades of C. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.

NURS 488 Clinical and Management Decision-making (University Core Capstone). 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Corequisite: NURS 301. This course focuses on the impact of regulation and accreditation on safe patient care delivery. The course emphasizes concepts related to professional nursing practice and explores selected internal and external forces that influence health care delivery. Students will evaluate current nursing practice within the context of previous nursing education and professional nursing standards. Upon successful completion of this course, proficiency credits for prior nursing education will be conferred. Course delivered online.
NURS 488. Clinical and Management Decision-making. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours (60 clinical/lab contact hours; delivered online). 3 credits (1 credit lecture, 2 credits clinical/lab).  
Prerequisites: NURS 406, NURS 462 and NURS 477, all with minimum grades of C. This course is designed as the culminating or capstone experience for the R.N.-B.S. completion program. The course provides opportunities to evaluate outcomes of baccalaureate education within the context of the clinical practice setting, to apply leadership principles and change theories to clinical and management decision-making, to employ concepts of quality and safety, and to use quality improvement processes in the health care setting.