

NURSING, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.), ACCELERATED 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 speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications 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 or university attended
2. Submit a completed application with all required materials to the School of Nursing.
3. Have an earned bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing from a regionally accredited college or university (This can be outstanding at the time of application but must be completed prior to the start of the program.)
4. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 based on a scale of 4.0 on all college course work
5. Present no grades lower than B in anatomy, physiology or microbiology (Lower grades are not accepted for these courses. Anatomy, physiology, and microbiology must be taken within 10 years of enrollment into the nursing program. Grades lower than C in any other required courses are not accepted.)
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university (Additional information can be found on the "Required materials" tab of the VCU International Admissions website (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/international/undergraduate-applicants/>.)
7. Complete the following prerequisites prior to enrollment:

Course	Title	Hours
BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 209 & BIOZ 209 or BIOL 303 & BIOZ 303	Medical Microbiology and Medical Microbiology Laboratory Microbiology and Microbiology Laboratory	4-5
BIOL 217	Principles of Nutrition	3
PHIS 206 & PHIZ 206	Human Physiology and Human Physiology Laboratory	4
PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
STAT 208 or STAT 210 or STAT 212	Statistical Thinking Basic Practice of Statistics Concepts of Statistics	3

Refer to the VCU Transfer Center website (<http://www.transfer.vcu.edu/>) for equivalencies at other colleges and universities.

Applicants who have completed a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing may also apply for the traditional program (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing-bs-traditional-program/>).

Degree requirements for Nursing, Bachelor of Science (B.S.), accelerated program

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/) ¹		

Major requirements

- Major core requirements

NURS 201	Concepts of Professional Nursing	2
NURS 202	Technologies of Nursing Practice	6
NURS 261	Health Assessment for Nursing Practice	3
NURS 325	Nursing of Adults I	6
NURS 335	Nursing of Women	5
NURS 345	Nursing of Children	5
NURS 355	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	5
NURS 365	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I	3
NURS 366	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II	3
NURS 403	Evidence-based Practice in Health Care	3
NURS 416	Community Health Nursing	5
NURS 425	Nursing of Adults II	6
NURS 478	Leadership and Management in Health Care: Theory and Application	3
NURS 498	Senior Synthesis	8
• Additional major requirements		
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1
IPEC 502	Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	1
IPEC 561	IPE Virtual Geriatric Case	2
or IPEC 562	IPE Quality Improvement Project Practicum	
or IPEC 563	Interprofessional Complex Care Coordination	

Ancillary requirements	
Credits required for admission	55
Total Hours	122

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General education requirements are met with previous baccalaureate degree.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 122.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the post-bachelor's degree prescribed requirements within a five-semester plan of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Credits required for admission to program: 55

Sophomore year

Summer semester		
NURS 201	Concepts of Professional Nursing	2
NURS 202	Technologies of Nursing Practice	6
NURS 261	Health Assessment for Nursing Practice	3
Term Hours:		11

Junior year

Fall semester		
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1
NURS 335	Nursing of Women	5
NURS 345	Nursing of Children	5
NURS 365	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I	3
Term Hours:		14

Spring semester

IPEC 502	Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	1
NURS 325	Nursing of Adults I	6
NURS 355	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	5
NURS 366	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II	3
NURS 403	Evidence-based Practice in Health Care	3

Term Hours: 18

Summer semester

NURS 425	Nursing of Adults II	6
NURS 478	Leadership and Management in Health Care: Theory and Application	3

Term Hours: 9

Senior year

Fall semester

IPEC 561	IPE Virtual Geriatric Case	2
or IPEC 562	or IPE Quality Improvement Project Practicum	
or IPEC 563	or Interprofessional Complex Care Coordination	

NURS 416	Community Health Nursing	5
NURS 498	Senior Synthesis	8

Term Hours: 15

Total Hours: 67

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 122.

NURS 201. Concepts of Professional Nursing. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits (2 credits lecture). Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. Provides a foundation for all clinical nursing courses. Content focuses on professionalism, professional nursing values and health care delivery The core competencies identified by the Institute of Medicine for health care professionals are introduced as critical components of professional nursing practice, and selected concepts related to these core competencies are emphasized. Course activities are structured to establish effective professional behaviors and learning strategies useful across one's professional career.

NURS 202. Technologies of Nursing Practice. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 90 clinical/laboratory hours. (3 credits lecture and 3 credits clinical/laboratory). 6 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Nursing. This course introduces the student to the study and application of skills and interventions basic to nursing practice. Content focuses on the development of cognitive, psychomotor, affective, interpersonal and communication skills to become effective members of the collaborative health care team. Students will learn how the concepts of nursing process and evidence-based clinical decision-making are integrated into practice. Opportunities are provided for practice and demonstration of selected skills in the laboratory and in clinical settings. This course emphasizes techniques for the safe acquisition and management of patient information.

NURS 261. Health Assessment for Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture and 30 clinical/lab hours. 3 credits (2 credits lecture and 1 credit clinical/lab). Prerequisite: PHIS 206. Pre- or corequisite: NURS 201. Enrollment requires admission to the School of Nursing. This course builds on the biopsychosocial sciences and focuses on development of knowledge, skills and techniques necessary for history-taking and physical examination in adults. Students are introduced to the nursing process and diagnostic reasoning skills are developed through analysis and documentation of assessment data. A laboratory experience provides opportunities for students to integrate communication and problem-solving skills with the health assessment process. The course focuses on the healthy adult patient and emphasizes the diversity of patient populations in health care settings.

NURS 325. Nursing of Adults I. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 90 clinical hours. 6 credits (3 credits lecture and 3 credits clinical/laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 201, NURS 202, NURS 261 and PSYC 304. All prerequisites must be completed with a minimum grade of C. Focuses on adult and geriatric patients with acute and chronic physical illnesses that have relatively stable trajectories. Provides theoretical and evidence-based foundations for nursing management and related therapeutic regimens. Emphasizes clinical decision-making and technical skills in the provision of care to adult and geriatric patients in a variety of health care settings.

NURS 335. Nursing of Women. 5 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 60 clinical/laboratory hours. 5 credits (3 credits lecture and 2 credits clinical/laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 201, NURS 202 and NURS 261. All prerequisites must be completed with a minimum grade of C. Examines the health needs of women across the life span with an emphasis on the health needs of the childbearing family. Applies nursing process, theory and research with an emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills in the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to health needs of women, neonates and families. Practices clinical skills and applies theoretical knowledge in selected ambulatory care settings for women's health and post-discharge care, and hospital settings for antenatal, intrapartum, post-partum and neonatal experiences.

NURS 345. Nursing of Children. 5 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 60 clinical/laboratory hours. 5 credits (3 credits lecture and 2 credits clinical/laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 201, NURS 202, NURS 261 and PSYC 304, all completed with a minimum grade of C. Examines health care needs of children within the context of the family system. Focuses on application of evidence, nursing process, communication skills and critical thinking when providing nursing to children. Applies current theory and evidence related to the child and family environment, developmental capacity, stress, adaptation and resilience. Incorporates standards of care for both well and ill children in the provision of care.

NURS 355. Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing. 5 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 60 clinical hours. 5 credits (3 credits lecture and 2 credits clinical laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 201, NURS 202 and NURS 261. All prerequisites must be completed with a minimum grade of C. Examines theoretical, empirical and practical knowledge applied to the prevention and treatment of common psychiatric and mental health conditions encountered in basic nursing practice. Provides students with an integrative perspective from which to incorporate various frameworks of knowledge into practice. Provides didactic knowledge and clinical learning experiences to facilitate students' understanding of actual and potential psychiatric illnesses and mental health problems in individuals, families and communities.

NURS 365. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Prerequisites: anatomy, physiology and microbiology; BIOL 205, PHIS 206; and BIOL 209 or BIOL 303. Enrollment is restricted to students admitted to the School of Nursing. Introduces general and foundational principles in pathophysiology and pharmacology. Examines pathophysiological mechanisms selected diseases, syndromes and/or conditions and integrates related pharmacotherapeutics. Establishes a biophysiological basis for understanding relevant clinical assessments, clinical manifestations and disease trajectories. Provides a foundation for establishing physiological priorities for nursing care.

NURS 366. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 lecture credits). Prerequisite: NURS 365 completed with a minimum grade of C. Examines pathophysiological mechanisms in selected human systems diseases, syndromes and/or conditions and integrates related pharmacotherapeutics. Establishes a biophysiological basis for understanding relevant clinical assessments, clinical manifestations and disease trajectories. Provides a foundation for establishing physiological priorities for nursing care.

NURS 371. Evidence-based Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 210, NURS 201, NURS 202. All prerequisites must be completed with a minimum grade of C. This overview course focuses on the knowledge and skills required to enact evidence-based practice over one's professional life. Students will examine the relevance of nursing research to evidence-based practice as they review important research concepts and identify factors affecting utilization of evidence in practice. The course formally introduces a model for evidence-based practice with an emphasis on the components of searching for, appraising and synthesizing best evidence.

NURS 416. Community Health Nursing. 5 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 60 clinical hours. 5 credits (3 credits lecture and 2 credits clinical laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 325, NURS 335, NURS 345, NURS 355, NURS 365, NURS 366 and NURS 403, all completed with a minimum grade of C. Focuses on development of knowledge and skills essential for care of communities and populations. Explores theory and evidence relevant to the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of communities and populations. Incorporates epidemiological principles to population-focused nursing and emphasizes the study and application of community health nursing roles for health promotion and disease prevention. Evaluates the impact of health policy on the public's health. Designs an evidence-based service-learning project to address the health care needs of at-risk populations.

NURS 425. Nursing of Adults II. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture and 90 clinical hours. 6 credits (3 credits lecture and 3 credits clinical laboratory). Prerequisites: NURS 325, NURS 335, NURS 345, NURS 355, NURS 365, NURS 366 and NURS 403, all completed with a minimum grade of C. Focuses on the patient in acute phases of physical illnesses and with complicated multisystem health problems. Provides theoretical and evidence-based foundations for nursing management and related therapeutic regimens. Focuses on the development and application of clinical decision-making and an evidence-based model in the provision of care to acutely ill adults in a variety of settings.

NURS 478. Leadership and Management in Health Care: Theory and Application. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours (3 credits lecture). 3 credits.

Prerequisites: NURS 325, NURS 335, NURS 345, NURS 355, NURS 365, NURS 366 and NURS 403, all completed with a minimum grade of C.

Integrates principles of leadership and management to prepare students for management, coordination and implementation of safe and ethical patient care in contemporary health care delivery systems. Based on an understanding of nursing's development as a profession, advances enactment of professionalism.

NURS 496. Senior Synthesis. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture and 120 clinical/lab hours. Honors section only: 2 lecture, 1 seminar and 120 clinical/lab hours. 6 credits (2 credits lecture and 4 credits clinical/lab). Honors section: 7 credits (2 credits lecture, 1 credit seminar [2 contact hours] and 4 credits clinical/lab).

Prerequisites: NURS 325, NURS 335, NURS 345, NURS 355, NURS 365, NURS 366, NURS 371, NURS 425, IPEC 501 and IPEC 502. Honors section prerequisite: NURS 512. All prerequisites must be completed with a minimum grade of C. This course is designed as a culminating experience that meets the criteria of the third tier of the VCU Core Curriculum. It prepares students for successful transition into professional practice; thus it requires higher-level cognitive processes that include synthesis of knowledge, evidence and skills from all previous course work and clinical experiences. The course requires that the student consistently enact professional practice, demonstrate competency in standards of care, application of evidence, professionalism and safe and legal practice. This course is taken during the last semester of the nursing program.