

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 online 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 graduated from a diploma or associate degree program in nursing from a college or university with institutional accreditation
4. Have an R.N. license from a U.S. state or territory at the time of application for admission (Students who do not currently have an R.N. license in the U.S., consult with the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (<http://www.cgfn.org/>) and the Virginia Board of Nursing (<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/>) for steps needed to obtain a Virginia R.N. license.)
5. 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/>).
6. Complete the following general education courses (with minimum grades of C) at an accredited college or university:
 - a. The following courses or their transfer equivalents (14 credit hours) must be completed prior to enrollment:

Course	Title	Hours
BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy ¹	4
PHIS 206 & PHIZ 206	Human Physiology and Human Physiology Laboratory ¹	4
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	Focused Inquiry I	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II	3
UNIV 200	Inquiry and the Craft of Argument	3

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Applicants attending colleges or universities which offer anatomy and physiology as a combined two-semester course must complete the entire course sequence prior to enrolling in the School of Nursing. One semester of a combined anatomy and physiology course will not transfer, nor can one semester of a combined anatomy and physiology course be used in conjunction with a stand-alone anatomy or physiology course to fulfill this requirement. If taking stand-alone anatomy and physiology courses, human or comparative anatomy and human or animal physiology are accepted.

- b. A minimum of 24 credit hours of the following required 37 credits must be completed prior to enrollment. All general education courses must be completed prior to enrolling in the final nursing course:

Course	Title	Hours
BIOL 101 & 101 or BIOL 151 & BIOZ 151	Biological Concepts and Biological Concepts Introduction to Biological Sciences I and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory I	4
BIOL 209 & BIOZ 209 or BIOL 303 & BIOZ 303	Medical Microbiology and Medical Microbiology Laboratory ¹ Microbiology and Microbiology Laboratory	4-5
BIOL 217	Principles of Nutrition (or successful completion of the nutrition exam)	3
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology or ANTH 103	Introduction to Sociology Introduction to Anthropology	3
STAT 208 or STAT 210 or STAT 212	Statistical Thinking (must be taken prior to NURS 403) Basic Practice of Statistics Concepts of Statistics	3
Additional college-level course work ²		12-14

1

Students may also successfully complete the microbiology NLN exam to satisfy this requirement.

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Courses must be eligible for transfer to VCU. See the Transfer Center website for course equivalencies (<https://transfer.vcu.edu/prospective/equivalency/>).

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 in the final nursing course: 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:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all college courses
- Minimum grade of B in any nursing class

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

Course	Title	Hours
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
NURS 301	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 307	Foundations of Professional Nursing I	3

NURS 308	Foundation of Professional Nursing II	3
NURS 309	Population Health	3
NURS 403	Evidence-based Practice in Health Care	3
NURS 406	Interprofessional Collaborative Practice	2
NURS 408	Ethics, Law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice	3
NURS 409	Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice	2
NURS 462	Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care	3
NURS 477	Leadership and Management in Health Care	4
NURS 488	Clinical and Management Decision-making	3

Ancillary requirements

Credits required for admission and for program corequisites	51
Upper-division proficiency credits awarded after successful completion of NURS 308	39
Total Hours	122

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

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 for program admission and program corequisites: 51

Semester 1		Hours
NURS 301	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 307	Foundations of Professional Nursing I	3
Term Hours:		6
Semester 2		Hours
NURS 308	Foundation of Professional Nursing II	3
NURS 309	Population Health	3
Term Hours:		6
Semester 3		Hours
NURS 403	Evidence-based Practice in Health Care	3
NURS 409	Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice	2
Term Hours:		5
Semester 4		Hours
NURS 408	Ethics, Law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice	3
NURS 462	Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care	3
Term Hours:		6
Semester 5		Hours
NURS 406	Interprofessional Collaborative Practice	2
NURS 477	Leadership and Management in Health Care	4
Term Hours:		6
Semester 6		Hours

NURS 488	Clinical and Management Decision-making	3
	Term Hours:	3
	Total Hours:	32

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

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

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 (delivered online). 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students admitted to the School of Nursing. 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.

NURS 308. Foundation of Professional Nursing II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 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 309. Population Health. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits lecture. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 301 with a minimum grade of C. Enrollment is restricted to students admitted to the School of Nursing. This course focuses on core concepts of population health. Socioeconomic, lifestyle, environmental, genetic and other major determinants of population health are examined. The nurse's role in health promotion, disease and injury prevention across the lifespan are emphasized. The importance of collaboration with populations and other health care professionals is highlighted. Course delivered online.

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

Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online). 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 201 or NURS 307; and STAT 208, STAT 210 or STAT 212, both with a minimum grade of C. This course formally introduces models for evidence-based practice, examines hierarchies of evidence, reviews change theories useful to initiate EBP and identifies individual and organizational resources needed for EBP. Emphasis is on developing skills in retrieving and appraising literature relevant to clinical problems, understanding the research process and critiquing evidence from research publications and other sources to inform evidence-based nursing practice.

NURS 406. Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 lecture hours (delivered online). 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 301 and NURS 307, both with a minimum grade of C. Explores the necessity for interprofessionalism in the contemporary health care environment. Core competencies and best practices for interprofessional collaborative practice are emphasized. Participation in virtual team activities provides students with opportunities to apply interprofessional knowledge, skills and attitudes that improve practice and impact patient care outcomes.

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

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 308 with a minimum grade of C. This course examines ethics, law and public policy that influence nursing practice and the nature and function of the health care system. The emphasis of the course will be on the role of the professional nurse as advocate for patients, families, communities and the nursing profession, as well as an advocate for changes in the health care system as needed. Course delivered online.

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

Semester course; 2 clinic hours (60 clinical contact hours, delivered online). 2 credits (2 credits clinical/lab). Prerequisite: NURS 309 with a minimum grade of C. This course provides opportunity to apply core concepts of population health in a community within the framework of the nursing process. Epidemiological and population-level data will be used to develop and/or guide interventions in the management of care. The course emphasizes evidence-based approaches to achieving sustainable population health outcomes.

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

Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online). 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 301 and 307, both with a minimum grade of C. This course expands on basic knowledge of normal physiology and common pathophysiologic conditions across the lifespan. The course focuses on advanced knowledge of pathophysiology in relation to complex health care conditions. Integration of appropriate assessment skills and evidence-based pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions are highlighted. The nurse's role in anticipating complications and evaluating clinical outcomes is emphasized.

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

Semester course; 4 lecture hours (delivered online). 4 credits: Prerequisites: NURS 308 and NURS 403, both with a minimum grade of C. This course examines principles of leadership and management that facilitate coordination and implementation of safe, quality-oriented and ethical patient care. The course emphasizes development of leadership competencies within contexts of the nursing community and interprofessional team in a variety of settings within the contemporary health care delivery system.

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 and NURS 477, both with a minimum grade 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.