

School of Nursing

Purpose and Focus

The Bachelor of Science degree provides students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, competencies and attitudes of the professional nurse by developing skills in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of health care with individuals, families, and groups in a variety of settings.

Degree Objectives

At the conclusion of the program of study, graduates will:

1. Utilize the nursing process as a framework for nursing practice, incorporating critical-thinking skills.
2. Provide clinically competent culturally appropriate, patient-centered care that encompasses principles of holism, caring, advocacy, spirituality, and global awareness.
3. Demonstrate effective verbal, nonverbal, and written communication skills in the practice of nursing.
4. Use emerging information technology in the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating patient care.
5. Integrate appropriate standards of care, protocols, research findings, and quality improvement in providing evidence-based nursing care.
6. Incorporate health promotion/disease prevention and illness management strategies in working with patients, families, groups and communities.
7. Effectively manage human, fiscal, and material resources to achieve quality health care outcomes.
8. Integrate professional values, attitudes, knowledge and behaviors into nursing practice.

Accreditation

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC)
Nevada State Board of Nursing

Undergraduate Majors

Nursing

Area of Concentration

B.S. in Nursing

Offers preparation for licensure as a registered nurse.

RN to BSN Pathway (RN Completion)

Through a collaborative agreement with Nevada State College, registered nurses with associate's degrees or diplomas take two courses from UNLV School of Nursing (SON) to fulfill their B.S. in nursing requirements from Nevada State College. These courses are NURS 410 Physical Assessment and NURS 426, Pathophysiological Processes in Secondary Prevention. The student may also elect to take these courses at the graduate level from UNLV SON. This shortens the graduate pathway by six to nine credits. Contact Nevada State College School of Nursing for more information at 702-992-2000.

Licensure Programs

Graduates of the BS in Nursing Program must successfully complete the NCLEX-RN examination to obtain licensure.

Admission to the Major

Minimum GPA: 3.00

Admission Policies: Students are admitted each semester. Students utilize the admission criteria published within the *Undergraduate Catalog* in effect at the time of admission to UNLV pre-nursing (PRN) major.

B.S. in Nursing: Students admitted into pre-nursing (PRN) must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.50. Students with a GPA between 2.00 and 2.50 may be admitted as nursing probationary students. Students are eligible for admission to the nursing major (NURS) when a UNLV GPA of 3.00 is established and the student has earned a B (3.00) in the following prerequisites: Fundamentals of college mathematics (MATH 120) or higher, Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 223/224), Microbiology (BIOL 251), Nutrition and Development Across the Lifespan (NURS 299) and has earned a minimum of a C (2.00) in all other general education and prerequisite courses. For acceptance into the nursing program, the B (3.00) grade in the identified courses must be earned in either the first or second enrollment in the course. In addition, students will be required to complete the Nursing Entrance Test (NET) prior to admission to the nursing program. Students must achieve a NET score at or above the North American mean to be eligible for admission. Students may complete the NET only twice. The NET will be offered at scheduled times. Contact the Pre-Nursing Advisor for fees and exam dates. Students may formally apply three times a year. Eligibility is verified by the pre-nursing advisor. **Students are rank ordered based on GPA, number of times courses are repeated, and the results of the NET. Admission will be offered to those students achieving the highest rank scores first until all openings are filled.** Demonstration of sufficient English proficiency by a non-native English speaker is required. A satisfactory score on the language proficiency exam is necessary for admission. Please contact the Pre-Nursing Advisor for information about these exams. Refer to the admission ranking worksheet which is available online at <http://nursing.unlv.edu> or at the School of Nursing office. **Students not accepted must reapply for admission in subsequent semesters.** Policies regarding process for notification and response are available from the BSN Coordinator.

Transfer Policies

B.S. in Nursing: Transfer students may gain admission eligibility into pre-nursing (PRN) via several routes. If the transfer GPA is 3.00 or above and the prerequisite course work has been completed with the required grades, the student will be admitted into the B.S. in nursing program based on rank scoring as noted above. If the transfer GPA is 2.50-2.99, nine credits of UNLV core requirements or prerequisite course work at UNLV must be completed with a GPA of 3.00. If the transfer GPA is 2.00-2.49, students must complete a probationary contract in which 15 UNLV core requirements or prerequisite course work must be completed with a 3.00 GPA to remove the probationary status.

School of Nursing Policies

Nursing Student Handbook: Students accepted into the B.S. in Nursing Program should obtain a copy of the Nursing Student Handbook from the School of Nursing website for identification of additional policies and procedures. Students are accountable for observing the policies in the handbook. Prior to beginning nursing courses, students will be asked to:

1. Sign a waiver releasing the School of Nursing and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, from responsibility for injury or illness resulting from exposure to disease, medicines, or treatments while in the clinical setting.
2. Present evidence of a negative tuberculosis test within the past year. The admitting TB test must be two step test. Subsequent yearly tests may be a one-step. If a student has a positive skin result, a chest X-ray is required.
3. Provide documentation of measles, mumps, rubella, varicella diphtheria and tetanus immunizations according to the most recent CDC guidelines. While attending the program, the vaccinations must be within the 10-year time frame.
4. Provide evidence of completion of the hepatitis B vaccine series, a titer indicating presumptive immunity, or a statement from a health care provider indicating that the vaccination is contraindicated for health reasons.
5. Provide documentation of physical examination within one year prior to admission to nursing program demonstrating the student's ability to perform the essential functions of the registered nurse, with or without reasonable accommodations (Essential functions can be found on the School of Nursing website.)
6. Provide evidence of a negative drug screen. Further information provided in the nursing orientation.
7. Provide certification of completion of BLS health care provider skills offered by the American Heart Association.
8. Complete a background check as identified on the School of Nursing website.
9. Provide evidence of current health insurance. The student is responsible to determine that health insurance coverage includes provisions of a needle stick or other high-risk exposure in the clinical setting, as well as the cost of anti-HIV drugs if warranted.

Credit: Contact hour ratio: one credit = three contact hours.

Progression: To progress in the B.S. in Nursing Program, students must achieve a minimum of a C (2.00) in each of the required nursing courses.

If a student receives less than a C (2.00) in a nursing class and it is the first occurrence, the student will be allowed to repeat the nursing course. (The student must renegotiate the nursing program contract and will be placed in the needed course at the next opportunity that class space is available.)

If a student is unsuccessful in an additional course with the NURS prefix (in the same semester or later semesters), the student will be suspended from the school. Unsuccessful is defined as:

1. Dropping a class in which the student has an average below C at the date of withdrawal from classes.
2. Completion of the course with a grade average below C (2.00).

3. An F grade resulting from failure to withdraw from the class.
4. Having an average below C (2.00) at the time of complete withdrawal from the university.
5. Failing the clinical portion of a clinical course.

Reinstatement to the baccalaureate program requires approval of the School of Nursing Student Affairs Council. If reinstatement is recommended, the recommendation may include stipulations. Reinstatement is not automatic and is dependent upon the student's total record of performance. The privilege of reinstatement is granted only once.

If the failed course in which the student was unsuccessful is a prerequisite or corequisite (requiring concurrent enrollment) to other nursing courses, as identified in the current catalog, the student will not be allowed to progress. All prerequisite or corequisites must be successfully completed prior to progression to any course scheduled in subsequent semesters. This policy would affect students as illustrated in the following example: NURS 320 identifies the following courses as prerequisites (NURS 305, 306, 307, and 308). If the student has not completed all of those courses with a satisfactory grade, he or she could not enroll in NURS 320.

Policies Specific to B.S. in Nursing

Incoming Student Orientation: Incoming students are required to attend a student orientation. At the orientation session, information concerning the program will be provided and student data collected.

Medication Calculation Policy: Students must demonstrate continuing and growing competence in medication calculation specific to various clinical areas. The student must demonstrate on the designated exam a grade of 100 percent prior to the end of the semester in each course that has a clinical component. Procedural aspects of the policy are identified in the Student Handbook.

Standardized Competency Exams: Standardized competency exams are required each semester of the nursing program. See Student Handbook for procedural aspects of this policy.

Additional information regarding school policies can be obtained from the student handbook or through advisement.

Advisement

After admission to the nursing program, all students will be assigned a nursing advisor from the undergraduate nursing faculty. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor once a semester or as needed.

Nursing Program Contracts: All pre-nursing (PRN) and nursing majors (NURS) are required to negotiate a program contract. Pre-nursing students meet with the Pre-nursing Advisor. The Pre-nursing program contract provides a semester-by-semester schedule identifying prerequisite classes needed to establish eligibility for admission to the nursing program. Nursing majors (NURS) meet with the BSN Coordinator to sign nursing program contracts.

Degree Requirements

Nursing

Four-Year Concentration

1) English Composition	6 credits
ENG 101 and ENG 102	
2) English Literature	3 credits
ENG 231 or 232	
3) Constitutions	4 credits
PSC 101 or HIST 100	
4) Mathematics	3 credits
MATH 120 or higher	
5) Distribution Requirement (Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking)	
Humanities and Fine Arts	9 credits
Humanities (student choice from listing = 3)	
Humanities (Spanish preferred = 3)	
Fine Arts (student's choice from listing = 3)	
Social Science	9 credits
PSY 101, SOC 101 plus 1 additional 3 credit class other than PSY or SOC courses	
6) Multicultural	(see note)
International	(see note)
7) Degree Requirements:	
Statistics	3-4 credits
ECON 261, HSC 300, STA 151, PSY 210, SOC 404 or SWK 404	
Sciences	24 credits
BIOL 189, BIOL 251, BIOL 223, BIOL 224, CHEM 110, and CHEM 111	
Pre-Nursing Core Requirements	4 credits
NURS 299	
Nursing Core Requirements	60 credits
NURS 305, 306, 307, 308, 319, 320, 329, 338, 340, 415, 418, 419, 423, 424, 425, 427	
Total:	125 credits

Note:

1. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course (NURS meets this requirements) and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.

LICENSURE: Graduates of the basic four-year baccalaureate degree program in nursing must successfully complete the NCLEX-RN examination to obtain licensure.

Nursing

NURS 100

Exploration in Nursing

Assists the undergraduate student in exploration of nursing as a major field of study. Includes examination of career and career advancement opportunities, lifestyle issues, academic preparation, professional issues. 2 credits.

NURS 140

Medical Terminology

Study of word derivation and formation with emphasis upon the understanding of common usage in the field of health care. 3 credits.

NURS 220

Basic Nursing Informatics

Basic understanding of how automation and technology are used to manage information in nursing practice settings. Focuses on the use of computers as a tool to aid nurses to perform patient care in a variety of settings. Prerequisites: PRN or NURS major. 3 credits.

NURS 299

Nutrition and Development Across the Lifespan

Focuses on application of growth and development principles and the science of nutrition in health and illness across the lifespan emphasizing social, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, environmental and economic factors within the United States. Theory = 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 189. 1-4 credits.

NURS 305

Patient Centered Care: Basic Principles

Introduction to nursing practice with an emphasis on the nursing process, psychomotor nursing skills, communication, and documentation. Provides content on selected common disorders. Clinical lab provides the opportunity to apply the nursing process and nursing skills. Theory = 2 credits, Clinical = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 299 and program contract. 4 credits.

NURS 306

Foundations in Pharmacology and Pathophysiology

Introduces the student to basic pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacoeconomics, and the relationship between pathophysiology and pharmacologic management. Emphasis on introductory principles and nursing management of drug therapy related to NURS 305. Theory = 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 299 and program contract. 3 credits.

NURS 307

Health Assessment of Diverse Populations

Acquisition of skills to perform a psychosocial, sociocultural, spiritual, family, and complete physical assessment. Normal assessment findings emphasized, however health risk factors and common abnormalities discussed. Teaching-learning principles introduced. Clinical lab provides opportunity to apply assessment skills. Theory = 4 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 299 and program contract. 4 credits.

NURS 308**Nursing in Today's World**

Explores historical and theoretical perspectives of nursing, current and future trends. Emphasis on development of critical thinking, informatics, evidence-based practice and health promotion. Theory = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 299 and program contract. 2 credits.

NURS 319**Nursing Care of Older Populations**

Knowledge and skill acquisition in planning care for older adult populations encompassing physiologic, sociocultural and financial aspects of aging while considering health and wellness, illness and end-of-life issues. Clinical experience occurs in acute and chronic settings with older populations. Theory = 3 credits, clinical = 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 305, 306, 307, 308, 329, 338. 6 credits.

NURS 320**Pharmacology and Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan**

Examines the pathologies common to children, childbearing women and older adults. Pharmacological interventions related to the pathologies studied. Builds upon and expands knowledge of NURS 306. Theory = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 305, 306, 307, 308, 329, 338. 2 credits.

NURS 322**Identification and Assessment in Addictions**

(Same as COU 427.) How to identify and assess individuals with addictions. Epidemiological, pathological, physiological and cultural basis of addictions across the life-span examined. Includes assessment/screening tools, motivational interviewing, the family system, enabling and resource and referral system. Prerequisite: COU 320. 3 credits.

NURS 329**Physical Assessment Skills**

Acquisition of skills (inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation) needed to perform a comprehensive physical assessment. Interviewing techniques and documentation skills will be developed. Normal assessment findings emphasized; however, health risk factors and common abnormalities discussed. Corequisite: NURS 307. 1 credit.

NURS 338**Fundamental Nursing Skills**

Learner directed skills course where students come prepared to practice and perform designated nursing skills in a safe environment. Students apply collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, peer and self-evaluation, and documentation as they practice the designated nursing skills. Corequisite: NURS 305.1 credit.

NURS 340**Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Families**

Examination and application of the theories of family-centered nursing during the child bearing and child rearing period, with emphasis on health promotion. Clinical experience occurs in

acute and chronic settings with children and families. Theory = 4 credits, clinical = 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 305, 306, 307, 308, 329, 338. 7 credits.

NURS 398**Assessment of Medical-Surgical Foundational Knowledge**

Students who have completed either an associate degree in nursing or a diploma in nursing may be awarded credit for knowledge and experience based on credit by examination, portfolio review, oral examination and/or national standardized testing equivalent to credits medical surgical nursing courses in current baccalaureate of nursing program. Prerequisite: Completion of associate degree or diploma in nursing. 1-14 credits.

NURS 399**Assessment of Foundational Knowledge in Maternal/Child Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing**

Students who have completed either an associate degree in nursing or a diploma in nursing may be awarded credit for knowledge and experience based on credit by examination, portfolio review, oral examination and/or national standardized testing equivalent to credits in Maternal-Child and Psychiatric Nursing courses in current baccalaureate of nursing program. Prerequisite: Completion of associate degree or diploma in nursing. 1-16 credits.

NURS 408**Transitions in Nursing**

Examination of concepts utilized within the baccalaureate program. Topics include nursing as a profession, nursing theory, roles in nursing and issues in nursing. Prerequisite: Baccalaureate Program Contract. 2 credits.

NURS 410**Physical Assessment**

Skills for obtaining an accurate health history and physical assessment for adults and children, including the ability to differentiate between the norm and variations requiring referral. Three hours of laboratory practice included. Prerequisites: Enrollment in NSC Collaborative Program. 3 credits.

NURS 411**Nursing Practice With Groups and Families**

Examination of internal and external factors which influence group process and function. Study of the family as a group with focus on family dynamics during health/illness. Application of nursing assessments/interventions appropriate for groups and families. Prerequisites: NURS 408. 3 credits.

NURS 415**Nursing Care of Acutely Ill Populations**

Focus on development of professional, patient-centered care for acutely ill populations in diverse settings. Emphasis placed on providing evidence-based nursing care, applying critical thinking skills in the management of patient care. Clinical experience will occur in acute settings with acutely ill populations. Theory = 4 credits, clinical = 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 319, 320, 340. 7 credits.

NURS 418**Nursing Research Methods**

Study of foundations of scientific investigation of health. Emphasis on the critique and use of health research. Prerequisites: Undergraduate statistics, NURS 319, 320, 340. 3 credits.

NURS 419**Nursing Care of Mental Health Populations**

Identification and management of patients with acute and chronic mental health conditions in diverse settings. Examines impact of stress and stress responses for individuals, families and groups. Clinical experience occurs in acute and chronic settings with diverse populations. Theory = 3 credits, clinical = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 319, 320, 340. 5 credits.

NURS 422**AIDS: An Interdisciplinary Perspective**

(Same as HED 422 and SWK 422.) Interdisciplinary survey of various issues surrounding AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) as viewed from several conceptual, professional, and experiential disciplines. Offers the most current cognitive information about AIDS and provides an affective awareness of major issues related to the disease. 3 credits.

NURS 423**Population-Focused Care in the Community**

Concepts of population-focused healthcare used to promote/preserve health across diverse groups of persons in the U.S. defined by socio-demographics, geographic boundaries, and populations faced with health or illness states. Content is focused on partnering with communities to assess and analyze health data within a community health model of care. Clinical experience occurs in community settings with culturally diverse populations. Theory = 3 credits, clinical = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 415, 418, 419. 5 credits.

NURS 424**Transition to Practice Seminar**

Assimilates major concepts for the first, second and third semesters while reinforcing major concepts of the fourth semester. Explores the pathway to licensure, initial job preparation, and excelling in practice settings. Theory = 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 415, 418, 419. 2 credits.

NURS 425**Managing Complex Nursing Care in Diverse Populations**

Nursing management of complex patients with multisystem conditions in diverse settings. Clinical experience occurs in diverse settings with complex patients. Theory = 2 credits, clinical = 4 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 415, 418, 419. 6 credits.

NURS 426**Pathophysiological Processes in Secondary Prevention**

Discusses the complex health pattern variations across the adult life span, in an acute care environment. Outcomes of therapeutic nursing interventions of diverse client systems emphasized. Prerequisite: NURS 410 and enrollment in NSC Collaborative Program. 3 credits.

NURS 427**Improving Clinical Care via Leadership and Management**

Leadership and management strategies to coordinate and supervise care including interdisciplinary collaboration, systems operations, and professional standards of care. Three hours a week will be with a preceptor in the managerial role. Theory = 1 credit, Clinical = 1 credit. Corequisite: NURS 425. Prerequisites: NURS 415, 418 and 419. 2 credits.

NURS 451**Leadership and Management in Nursing Practice**

Examination of concepts which facilitate effectiveness in the nurse manager role. Study, observation, critique and practice of selected formal managerial strategies and informal managerial processes. Includes three hours of clinical practice weekly. Prerequisite: NURS 411. 1-4 credits.

NURS 473**Health and Disease in Antiquity**

(Same as ANTH 467.) Covers paleopathology, or, the study of disease in ancient populations. It provides an overview of morbidity over the last 20,000 years for many different populations from around the globe. Information on disease is drawn from human skeletal and mummified remains, as well as from archaeological reconstructions of lifestyle and diet. Prerequisite: Any one of the following: ANTH 102, BIOL 100, 109, 189 or 223, or NURS 299 or equivalent. 3 credits.

NURS 474**Medical Anthropology**

(Same as ANTH 426.) Provides a broad overview of medical anthropology, covering such biocultural topics as disease and human evolution and ecology of disease, as well as culturally centered approaches in the field, including ethnomedicine (culture-specific conceptions of health and illness), healers in cross-cultural perspective, and medical anthropology practiced in clinical and public health settings. Prerequisites: ANTH 101 or ANTH 102. 3 credits.

NURS 486**Gerontology**

Study of age-related changes of the elderly relevant to their needs and delivery of health care. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing. 3 credits.

NURS 490**Special Topics in Nursing**

Information related to broad topic areas. Separate units focus on aspects of a) Medical Nursing, b) Surgical Nursing, c) Psychiatric Nursing, d) Obstetrical Nursing, e) Pediatric Nursing, f) Gerontological Nursing, g) Research in Nursing, i) The Profession of Nursing, j) Specialty Areas in Nursing, k) Preventative Aspects of Health Care. Other specific topic areas published in class schedules. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing. 1-3 credits.

NURS 498**Independent Study**

Independent research projects under faculty supervision. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. 1-3 credits.