
Nursing (BS)

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR: Margaret Reilly

CUNY School of Professional Studies
101 West 31st Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Email Contact: Margaret Reilly, margaret.reilly@cuny.edu

URL: http://sps.cuny.edu/programs/bs_nursing

THE PROGRAM

The online Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (R.N. to B.S. in Nursing) program provides registered nurses with the academic credential necessary to help them advance in the field. Through the flexibility of online study, students of this program build on prior knowledge gained at the associate's degree level, and explore pressing issues related to today's changing global healthcare environment. The program is designed to assist students in developing intellectual curiosity and a spirit of inquiry essential to professional development.

Dedicated CUNY faculty and expert practitioners draw on the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to help students develop and demonstrate competency in:

- Health assessment
- Leadership and management
- Nursing research
- Care of culturally diverse populations
- Global Health and policy issues

By building on prior learning, the curriculum prepares associate's degree and diploma nurses for the increasingly complex and varied roles that they will be expected to assume. These include:

- Providing a safe environment for the delivery of care;
- Practicing nursing through a humanitarian, altruistic and philanthropic lens;
- Communicating effectively;
- Making sound clinical judgment;
- Working with an interdisciplinary team, including clients, families and other stakeholders; and,
- Effectively managing patient care to ensure best possible healthcare outcomes.

Career and Academic Advancement Prospects

The online Bachelor's Degree in Nursing program prepares licensed registered nurses to assume leadership positions in hospitals, community agencies, and long-term care facilities across the metropolitan area and beyond. Students gain the tools needed to meet the challenges of the evolving healthcare system, as well as the knowledge and experience required to move forward into graduate level studies and advanced practice nursing.

Admission Criteria

In addition to the admission criteria for undergraduate degree programs, applicants to the online Bachelor's Degree in Nursing program must meet the following criteria:

- Associate's degree in nursing from the City University of New York or from a non-CUNY regional or nationally accredited credit-granting institution with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Nurses who hold a nursing diploma from a non-credit granting institution may also apply. Diploma applicants will be awarded 36 credits for their nursing education, if they have passed the NCLEX-RN and have an NYS RN license to practice, and will be required to complete 84 credits of coursework to be awarded the BS in Nursing degree.
- Current licensure in New York State as a Registered Professional Nurse, or eligibility to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination - RN (NCLEX-RN) - in New York State. Students who do not currently hold an RN license may apply to the program in anticipation of licensure. Students who meet the eligibility criteria will be admitted on a conditional basis and will be required to obtain their RN license before beginning their second term in the program.

The online application requires students to complete a personal essay that will help us understand your educational goals and readiness to return to college.

Program Requirements

120 credits are required for the online Bachelor's Degree program in Nursing, broken down as follows:

General Education

Some of these will be transfer credits from students' associate's degree programs

- 12 credits from the Required Common Core
- 18 credits from the Flexible Common Core

AAS Nursing Credits

A minimum of 30 nursing credits transferred in from the students' associates or diploma degrees. In most cases students will transfer in 45 or more credits.

BSN Requirements

- 9 credits non-nursing courses
- 30 credits nursing courses (includes 6 credits from the SPS College Option Core)
 - Clinical Practice Experiences – among the 27 credits in nursing courses there are two courses that require a clinical component:
 - NURS 303 - requires 1 clinical credit or 45 hours. Clinical arrangements will be coordinated locally by the academic director.
 - NURS 499 – Nursing Capstone Course (clinical) requires 2 clinical credits or 90 hours that are factored into a capstone project. Clinical experiences can be developed locally with an approved preceptor of your choice.

Electives

The number of credits students will be required to take will be dependent on the credits transferred from their associate's degree programs.

Notes:

- 1. The program of study must be completed within five (5) calendar years after admission, or students will need to re-apply to the program.**
- 2. A minimum grade of a C is required in all courses in the Nursing major. A student may not progress to the next course in the sequence without having a C in the prerequisite course.**

Required Courses

- BIO 310 – Pathophysiology & Pharmacology
- CHEM 101 – General Chemistry
- MATH 215 – Introduction to Statistics
- NURS 300 – Transition to Professional Nursing
- NURS 301 – Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice within Culturally Diverse Populations
- NURS 302 – Health Teaching in Diverse Cultures
- NURS 303 – Caring for Patients, Including Diverse Populations, in their Communities (4 credits)
- NURS 313 – Nursing Informatics
- NURS 350 – Principles of Nursing Research
- NURS 451 – Leadership and Management in Healthcare
- NURS 461 – Global Health and Policy Issues: A Nursing Perspective
- NURS 499 – Leadership and Management in Healthcare Capstone Course (clinical) (5 credits)

Elective Courses

- NURS 312 – Introduction to Palliative Care
- NURS 314 - Case Management in Health and Human Services
- NURS 331– Health Issues in Aging, Longevity and Chronic Healthcare
- NURS 399 – Guided Independent Study (1-3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIO 310 **Pathophysiology and Pharmacology** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: BIO 200

This course combines the study of human disease processes and treatments. The etiology and pathogenesis of diseases are discussed along with the application of diagnostic procedures and patient care. The pathology and underlying principles of the human systems are presented, along with characteristics of typical drugs, side effects, cautions, and interactions.

CHEM 101 **General Chemistry** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

General Chemistry is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in the principles of chemistry. The course covers the following topics: Scientific Notation and the Metric System, Atomic Structure, The Periodic Table, Bonding, Phases of Matter, The Mole, Solutions, and Acid and Bases. The focus is on critical thinking in the application of basic chemistry principles. The course will include a lab component.

MATH 215 **Introduction to Statistics** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course will introduce the basic principles of statistics and probability, with an emphasis on understanding the underlying concepts, real-world applications, and the underlying story that the numbers tell. Students will be expected to use Microsoft Excel's statistical functions to implement analyze data. Broadly speaking, this course will provide an introduction to probability, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, and inferential statistics.

NURS 300 **Transition to Professional Nursing** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the structure of the discipline of nursing, selected theoretical and conceptual models and their application to nursing practice, research, and education as a foundation for socialization/re-socialization into the professional nursing practice. With the current emphasis on quality health care and evidence-based-nursing practice, it is every nurse's responsibility to ensure that one's practice is competent, safe, meets legal/ethical standards; and is evidence-based. This course focuses on the transition from AAS nursing student to Baccalaureate registered professional nurse.

NURS 301 **Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice
within Culturally Diverse Populations** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: NURS 300

This course is designed to assist the professional nurse to further develop interviewing skills and physical assessment skills which will be used in working with patient populations, including multicultural groups. Students will interview and assess individuals and analyze assessment data which they will then compare and contrast to normal findings to determine specific health care needs. Emphasis will be placed on patients' cultural considerations and access to care in their community.

Note: This course includes a \$160 Materials Fee to cover the cost of health assessment testing with standardized patients at the New York SIM center.

NURS 302 **Health Teaching in Diverse Cultures** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: Pre or Co-Requisite NURS 300

This course is designed to explore the role of the professional nurse as an educator for a population with a specific health problem within a community. Education theory, evidence-based teaching strategies, and the use of appropriate interventions for culturally diverse or at risk populations will be discussed. A teaching plan will be developed using a patient population of the student's choice.

NURS 303 **Caring for Patients, Including Diverse Populations, in their
Communities** **4 Credits**

Prerequisite: NURS 301 and NURS 302

This course develops the role of the professional nurse in the community setting. Major focus will be the need to collaborate with other health team members within the community to build healthy communities. The challenges of emerging health issues as well as access to care for vulnerable populations and advocacy for the patient in this setting will also be discussed.

NURS 312	Introduction to Palliative Care	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course introduces concepts and principles of palliative care for patients who are experiencing life threatening or chronic illness. A holistic approach incorporating social, emotional, spiritual physical and cultural dimensions will be considered to direct patient and family- centered care. Assessment and management of patient and family needs will be explored in a variety of palliative care settings, including acute care, community, long-term care and hospice. The needs of underserved and vulnerable populations will be highlighted. National trends, quality indicators, policy and reimbursement affecting healthcare are viewed from the context of palliative care delivery. In addition, a focus on legal and ethical issues related to palliative care and end-of-life care will be addressed.		
NURS 313	Nursing Informatics	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course combines knowledge and skills from nursing science, computer science, and information science in the practice of nursing. Major topics focus on informatics concepts and communications that are most critical to therapeutic nursing interventions. The course assignments will familiarize students with both the theoretical concepts and the practical application of the scholarship of nursing informatics in health care management and/or health services delivery. Students will analyze an actual nursing information system and consider how to ensure privacy of patient information.		
NURS 314	Case Management in Health and Human Services	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Case management is a collaborative process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates the options and services required to meet the client's health and human service needs. It is characterized by advocacy, communication, and resource management and promotes quality and cost-effective interventions and outcomes. In this course students will learn the essentials of case management and develop skills necessary to become an effective case manager.		
NURS 331	Health Issues in Aging, Longevity and Chronic Healthcare	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course focuses on content specific to the dynamics of aging, theories of aging and nursing interventions for health promotion and improvement of quality of life for older adults. Social, emotional, spiritual and physical aspects of aging will be explored.		
NURS 350	Principles of Nursing Research	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: MATH 215</i>		
This course focuses on the development of skills needed to analyze and critique nursing research literature. The course is designed to develop an appreciation of research as the foundation for evidence-based practice. It provides students with a conceptual basis to both interpret and evaluate research for evidence-based practice. Methodologies are used that facilitate the analysis of research relevant to the student's area of clinical interest and expertise.		
NURS 399	Guided Independent Study	1-3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: NURS 301</i>		
Under the guidance of a nursing faculty member, students will explore a nursing problem or a question or topic of interest. Students are expected to submit a proposal for approval, including:		
1) problem/question identification;		
2) delineation of goals to be achieved;		
3) description of methodology; and		
4) completion of a final product (such as a term paper, project, or audiovisual production).		
NURS 451	Leadership and Management in Healthcare	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: NURS 302</i>		
This course explores principles of organizations, leadership and management related to nursing. Skills necessary to facilitate group dynamics and personnel management are addressed, and quality control models are examined. Emphasis is on the coordination of care for patients and health care personnel. Students will have the opportunity to learn a variety of management methodologies. Discussion will focus on current issues and their potential impact on nursing practice.		

NURS 461 Global Health and Policy Issues: A Nursing Perspective 3 Credits

Prerequisite: NURS 303 This course will enhance students' knowledge of the ongoing changes in health care and policy development including discussion and analysis of issues related to health care around the world. Discussion will be related to health care access, disparities, and human rights. The course will look at ways of promoting access, especially for the most vulnerable individuals and groups in society. Global nursing outreach organizations will also be explored.

NURS 499 Leadership and Management in Healthcare Capstone 5 Credits
Course (clinical)

Prerequisite: NURS 303 and NURS 350

This course explores principles of organizations, leadership and management related to Nursing. Skills necessary to facilitate group dynamics and personnel management are addressed, and quality control models are examined. Emphasis is on the coordination of care for patients and health care personnel. Students will have the opportunity to learn a variety of management methodologies. Discussion will focus on current issues and their potential impact on nursing practice. The 90-hour capstone project provides the students an opportunity to reflect and synthesize Baccalaureate of Science in nursing practice, interdisciplinary collaboration, and development of a quality improvement proposal.