Northern Illinois University

School of Nursing and Health Studies

Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Nursing

Degree Completion Opportunities for the Registered Nurse

Northern Illinois University’s RN-BS in nursing completion program is designed to award credit to registered nurses for their recent education and previous learning experiences in the field of nursing. Registered nurse degree completion students must plan on a minimum of three semesters to complete the required nursing courses.

The B.S. degree with a major in nursing, prepares the professional nurse for leadership roles in patient care in the total spectrum of health care agencies and settings. The graduates are prepared to function with baccalaureate competencies in the delivery of nursing care and in assisting in the improvement of health care delivery systems. They will also be skilled in utilizing the knowledge of the physical and social sciences as integral aspects of nursing, and will be prepared to enter graduate programs that will further increase their nursing knowledge.

Class Offerings

Classes are offered on a rotating schedule during evenings at several convenient locations or online:

- Elgin Community College, Elgin
- Harper College, Palatine
- Kishwaukee Community College, Malta
- Oakton Community College, DesPlaines
- NIU DeKalb
- NIU Naperville
- NIU Rockford

Most Nursing classes are offered online, face to face, and blended.

Students enrolled in NIU’s Nursing program enjoy many benefits:

- Proficiency credit for recent education and previous learning experiences in the field of nursing
- A practicum experience designed for RN students
- Access to the quality resources of an accredited institution
- Small class sections
- Part-time or Full-time enrollment

Admission Requirements

You must hold a current Illinois RN license and be prepared in the following ways:

- Practiced as a Registered Nurse within the past five years or have satisfactorily completed an approved refresher course.
  - Community college students enrolled in Associate Degree Nursing programs will be considered for dual degree admission.
  - Dual degree admission students must successfully complete AAS in Nursing degree and pass NCLEX for continued enrollment in the NIU Nursing program.
- Passed a certified proficiency exam if you graduated more than five years ago and have not practiced within the last two years.
- You must have a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA
- Must achieve a minimum grade of C or better in all attempted prerequisite courses.
Apply by following these steps:

• Submit your application, a copy of your current Illinois RN license and your official transcripts to the NIU Office of Admissions.
  o Community College students enrolled in Associate Degree Nursing programs will be considered for dual degree admission.
• Complete Goal and Expectancy statement*
• Apply to NIU at www.niu.edu or contact Undergraduate Admissions at admissions@niu.edu or (800)892-3050.
• Submit two letters of recommendation on an approved form*; one from a current nursing supervisor and the other from a faculty member or another supervisor.
• Meet with the undergraduate student services coordinator to review your previous course work, discuss appropriate courses to meet your goals, and plan the details of completing your degree.

*Admission forms are available from the nursing advisor or online at http://www.chhs.niu.edu/nursing/rnbs/resources.shtml

Academics

• You must complete 120 semester hours with at least 40 hours in upper-division courses.
• Maintain at least a 2.75 GPA.
• Complete university general education requirements.
• Complete extra-departmental requirements.
• Must earn a grade of at least C in each course required in the major and all pre-requisite courses for the major.
• Complete 28 semester hours of NIU nursing courses.
• You may transfer up to 66 semester hours of approved course work and four hours of physical education from a community college to help meet these requirements.

General Information

Drug Screen and Criminal Background Check
All students are required to have a drug screen and a criminal background check prior to enrollment in the practicum course. A positive drug screen or criminal background check may result in the inability to complete the nursing program.

• Students wishing to enroll in NURS 463: Practicum in Leadership and Population-Focused Nursing must provide evidence of completion of immunizations, current CPR certification, influenza vaccination and other clinical and course requirements.
• A complete list of clinical requirements can be found on the Nursing website at http://www.chhs.niu.edu/nursing/clinicals.shtml.

*Please be advised that your program may have non-academic requirements for admission and/or progression through the program. For details please check the NIU Undergraduate Catalog or Nursing Student Handbook, or contact your advisor.

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University General Education Requirements¹
A complete listing of general education courses and course descriptions can be found in the current Undergraduate Catalog.

- ENGL 103 and 203
- COMS 100 (speech)
- MATH 101 or 155 or 201 or 206 or 210 or 211 or 229 or STAT 208 equivalent from IL Community College

Transfer credit available from most community colleges or universities.

Extra-Departmental Requirements¹
(Up to 23 semester hours of the extra-departmental requirements may be applicable towards general education credit) Transfer credit for courses available from most community colleges or universities

- BIOS 103, General Biology (3)²
- BIOS 105, General Biology Lab (1)²
- BIOS 213, Bacteriology with lab (3) or BIOS 313, Microbiology (4)
- BIOS 357, Anatomy and Physiology with lab (5)
- CHEM 110, Chemistry (3) and CHEM 111, Chemistry Lab (1) or CHEM 210T, General Chemistry (3) and CHEM 212, General Chemistry Lab (1)
- ENGL 203, Rhetoric and Composition II (3)
- Lifespan development course (3)³
- Basic statistics (2-4 semester hours)
- PSYC 102, Introduction to Psychology (3)
- Basic nutrition³ (2-4 semester hours)

¹See undergraduate catalog for specific course and residency requirements.
²See adviser – course waiver possible.
³Proficiency Testing Credit available at NIU.

Required NIU Nursing Courses (28 semester hours)

- NURS 347 Concepts of Professional Nursing (4)
- NURS 312 Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice (3)
- NURS 304 Health Assessment (1)
- NURS 307 Health Assessment laboratory (1)
- NURS 308 Alterations in Biological Systems (3)
- NURS 408 Genetics and Human Genomics for Nurses (1)
- NURS 419 Population-Focused Nursing (3)
- NURS 425 Nursing Informatics (1)
- NURS 432 Processes for Nursing Leadership (3)
- NURS 435 Gerontological Nursing (2)
- NURS 488 Nursing, Ethics, and the Law (3)
- NURS 463 Practicum in Leadership and Population-Focused Nursing (3)

Thirty-three semester hours of proficiency/“escrow” credit will be awarded upon successful completion of the course NURS 347 and additional hours of NIU nursing course work.

Nursing Requirements – 28 NIU semester hours plus 33 semester hours “escrow” credit = 61 Total nursing semester hours awarded.

General Electives
The Bachelor of Science degree requires a total of 120 semester hours. Elective hours may be needed to meet this requirement.

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