

## **Why do I need a BSN degree?**

Today's nurses must not only be prepared to provide expert nursing care but also be able to help transform health care practice in hospitals and other settings. In the BSN program, the student has the opportunity to develop the professional knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet both of these challenges. Emphasis is placed on the incorporation of the liberal arts education in to the nursing content. The BSN curriculum focuses on theory based experiences in providing care to individuals, families and populations for acute/chronic conditions, health promotion and disease management. Specialized course work in research and evidence based practice expand the student's critical thinking ability. Developing knowledge in local, regional and global health care along with interdisciplinary experience allow the BSN graduate to take a leadership role in the health care team. Lastly, a BSN degree prepares the student for advanced education and career opportunities.

## **What are the admission requirements for the RN/BSN Completion Program?**

- All prerequisite courses must be passed with a grade of "C"
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or 3.0 based on last 15 credits

## **What nursing courses will I have to take to complete a BSN degree?**

There are two prerequisite nursing courses:

- NUR 310 Professional Nursing Seminar, 2 credits
- NUR 500 Health Assessment Skills for Nurses, 3 credits

There are five senior level nursing courses:

- NUR 265 Intro to Nursing Research & Evidence Based Practice
- NUR 410 Professional Role Transition, 4 credits
- NUR 425 SWS Care of Clients with Chronic Conditions, 5 credits
- NUR 426 Health in Diverse Communities, 5 credits
- NUR 455 Leadership and Nursing Care Management, 3 credits

## **Will I receive credit for my previous nursing courses?**

RNs receive 30 university credits for their previous nursing coursework from a diploma or A.D.N. program. Community college credit is also given (3 credits each) for anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, nutrition, and growth & development if not listed on the college transcript. These credits are awarded following successful completion of NUR 410.

## **Do you have any proficiency exams to verify my knowledge and skills?**

No.

## **Do you give credit for life/work experience?**

No

**Do you have a program for RNs who have a bachelors degree in a field other than nursing?**

No.

**How long will it take to complete my degree?**

It depends on how many prerequisites and general education classes are completed and how many classes you wish to take each semester. Most RNs complete their degree in 2-3 years of part-time study. GVSU policy states that you must complete your degree within 8 years after you start your first GVSU class.

**Are there any clinical courses?**

Yes. Home visits are done in NUR 410 Professional Role Transition and NUR 425 Care of Clients with Chronic Conditions. NUR 426 Health in Diverse Communities requires 48 hours of clinical time which can be done in your home community. Time must be set aside for completion of this requirement each week.

**Is the nursing program accredited?**

Yes. The Kirkhof College of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

**How often do classes meet?**

The senior level nursing courses are taught in a hybrid format, a combination of on-site and on-line classes. On-site sessions for each class will be 2-4 times per semester and are held in the Center for Health Sciences Building on the downtown Grand Rapids Pew Campus.

**How do I apply to GVSU?**

You can complete the GVSU application either on-line or send the paper application to the Admissions Department. Applications are accepted year-round. Contact all schools you have attended since high school and have your official transcripts sent to GVSU. The Admissions Department requires that you apply at least one month prior to the start of classes. This allows time for your transcript to be evaluated and to attend transfer orientation.

**What are the general education requirements?**

General education requirements include:

The Foundation categories:

- Writing – WRT 150

- Arts (choose one course)
- Philosophy and Literature (choose one course)
- Historical Perspectives (choose one course)
- Mathematical Sciences (one course - need STA 215)
- Natural Sciences (one of the science courses must contain a lab)
  - Physical Sciences (one course - need CHM 109)
  - Life Sciences (one course - need BIO 120)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (two courses from two disciplines - need PSY 101, choose one other course)

#### Cultural Emphasis Requirements

- World Perspectives (choose one course)
- US Diversity (choose one course)

#### University Requirements

- Two Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS) courses
  - One course can be done in conjunction with a general education class
  - One course in nursing curriculum

#### Themes

- Each student will select a theme and choose two courses from that theme. The courses must come from two different disciplines.

Some of the RN/BSN Completion Program prerequisite courses fulfill the general education requirements. Additionally, students may have taken some of these courses in their A.D.N. or Diploma program.

#### **How do I know what classes I will need to take?**

You will receive a "Degree Evaluation" approximately 3-6 weeks after you apply to GVSU and have your transcripts sent to GVSU. It will show how your classes from another school transfer to GVSU. A program plan will be developed at the time of your transfer orientation.

#### **Can I take some of the prerequisite or general education classes at a community college?**

Yes. Confirm the transferability of the class prior to taking it.

#### **When do I apply for the senior level nursing courses?**

You can apply for the senior level nursing courses when you are finishing your prerequisite courses. Contact the Office of Student Services for an application.

The senior level nursing sequence begins every spring/summer semester.

**When can I register for the senior level nursing courses?**

You will receive a letter regarding admission approximately one month after the application deadline which will include information regarding health compliance requirements. This includes: health physical form, immunization titers, current TB skin test, current CPR, Blood borne Pathogen training, Criminal Background check, Drug Screening, Finger Printing, and current Michigan RN license.

**Does GVSU limit the number of credits I can transfer from a community college?**

No. You must have a total of 120 credits to graduate, 30 of which must be earned at GVSU.

**Can I start the program if I don't have my nursing license yet?**

You can complete the general education classes and many of the prerequisite classes prior to receiving your license. You must be a RN before you can take NUR 310 Professional Nursing Seminar and NUR 500 Health Assessment Skills for Nurses.

**Do I need a computer?**

A home computer is not required, but you will need computer skills. Computers are available on all GVSU campus sites.

**Where do I get the textbooks?**

You can purchase them at one of the GVSU Bookstores. You can also order them via the web: [www.ubs.gvsu.edu](http://www.ubs.gvsu.edu) .

**Who do I contact if I have additional questions?**

You can contact Wanda Moerland, RN/BSN Academic Advisor by phone: 616-331-6742 or 800-480-0406 or e-mail: [moerlanw@gvsu.edu](mailto:moerlanw@gvsu.edu).