Mission Statements and Nursing Goals

University Mission

Stephen F. Austin State University is a comprehensive institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative work, and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, we engage our students in a learner-centered environment and offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in the global community.

College Mission

The primary mission of the CoSM is teaching of the highest quality at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The CoSM, through its departments and divisions, attempts to provide its students with the following: the knowledge and skills necessary for life-long learning, an understanding of the world in which we live, the ability to comprehend scientific and mathematical advancements, and their benefit to future generations.

DeWitt School of Nursing (SON) Mission

Our mission is to provide students a foundation for success as graduate nurses who are ethical, competent critical thinkers by providing an educational environment that promotes holistic healthcare in an educational community dedicated to teaching, research, creativity, and service.

School of Nursing Core Values

The Individual Student

An individual, group, or community with unique genetic endowment, self care knowledge and resources, perception and culture, experiences, and adaptation potential. The client/student is a valued and respected partner in achieving maximum potential.
Teaching and Learning

Facilitation of meaningful learning which provides a university level foundation on which to base graduate education in the discipline of nursing. Each nursing graduate is expected to meet the academic and ethical standards of the profession of nursing by thinking in disciplined, critical, quantitative, qualitative ways.

Intellectual and Creative Discovery

Encourage the student to investigate the health needs of a changing society and to think in creative ways to provide holistic health care to culturally diverse populations.

Service Interdisciplinary

Collaboration to meet the needs of culturally diverse population.

Academic Achievement

Provide an environment in which the student becomes an ethically guided, critical thinker who uses a substantive general education in traditional and nontraditional ways to provide proactive, compassionate care.

Nursing

A profession of arts and science dedicated to facilitating, nurturing, and providing unconditional acceptance in the attainment of an individual's maximum potential. Nursing encourages positive integration of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor learning to build cognitive structures for problem solving.

Health

Maximum potential denoted by dynamic equilibrium among various cognitive, psychosocial, emotional, and physiological subsystems of the client.

Environment

Internal/external stressors/distressors

Program Learning Outcomes

Successful graduates of the DeWitt School of Nursing should be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the physical, social and behavioral sciences in the provision of nursing care based on theory, research and evidence-based practice.
- Deliver nursing care within established legal and ethical parameters in collaboration with clients and members of the interdisciplinary health care team.
- Provide holistic nursing care to clients while respecting individual and cultural diversity.
- Demonstrate effective leadership that fosters independent thinking, use of informatics, and collaborative communication in the management of nursing care.
- Assume responsibility and accountability for quality improvement and delivery of safe and effective nursing care.
• Serve as an advocate for clients and for the profession of nursing.
• Demonstrate continuing competence, growth, and development in the profession.

The DeWitt School of Nursing offers curricula leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The curriculum plan includes courses in general education, science and the humanities, and a nursing core. Clinical application courses allow for exposure to a variety of areas of nursing practice.

The RN to BSN program is a flexible option designed to meet the needs of the working RN. Nursing classes are offered via distance learning methodologies with periodic visits to campus. Clinical experiences may be conducted in the geographical area in which the RN student resides.

The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing will allow the student a wide range of opportunities to excel as a nurse. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) which assures a high quality and meets established standards. The program includes a total of 120 hours (53 hours nursing and 68 prerequisite hours) for the generic student, and a total of 120 hours in the RN/BSN track.

Upon completion of the program, the graduates (generic BSN) are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

**Recommendation for Licensure**

University recommendation for application for RN licensure will be made upon satisfactory completion of the nursing curriculum.

**Information Regarding Eligibility to Write the NCLEX-RN**

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) has established guidelines and criteria regarding the eligibility of persons with criminal convictions to obtain a license as a registered nurse. The BON may refuse to admit persons to its licensure examinations, may refuse to issue a license or certificate of registration, or may refuse to issue a temporary permit to any individual who has been convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or engaged in conduct resulting in the revocation of probation imposed pursuant to such conviction. A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal background check is required by the BON. Convictions for offenses other than traffic violations will be investigated. A student contemplating entry into the BSN program that has/had such offenses should submit a Declaratory Order packet to include fingerprint card for review by the BON. The information can be found on the BON website at [http://www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) has established guidelines and criteria regarding the eligibility of persons with mental illness and/or chemical dependency to obtain a license as a registered nurse. The BON may refuse to admit persons to its licensure examinations, may refuse to issue a license or certificate of registration, or may refuse to issue a temporary permit to any individual with lack of fitness to practice by reason of mental illness or intemperate use of alcohol or drugs that could result in injury to patients or the public. A student with a history of mental illness or chemical dependency, who is considering entry into a BSN program, should submit a Declaratory Order as previously noted in the last paragraph.
A student who has concerns in either of these areas is encouraged to file a Declaratory Order with the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) prior to his/her academic career. BON investigations may take up to a year. Detailed information is available from the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) or from the Director of the DeWitt School of Nursing.

**Admission into the DeWitt School of Nursing**

To be considered for admission review, the student must have applied and be admitted to the University.

Applications may be started at anytime, but the following deadlines will be strictly adhered to:

- Spring admission: September 12th
- Fall admission: February 1st

Important deadline information: For the application to be verified by the deadline date and the School of Nursing have the ability to view it, you need to submit the application 4-6 weeks prior the above deadline date.

**Admission Requirements**

A class of students will be admitted each fall and spring semester based on completion of prerequisite course work and admission criteria. The number of students admitted each semester may vary due to Board of Nursing (BON) requirements of student-to-instructor ratios and available applicant pool. Admission is competitive and is based on the student's overall GPA, science GPA, and scores received on the admission test. At the present time, the DeWitt School of Nursing (SON) is using the TEAS V Admission Test. This test can be scheduled through the Testing Services Office at SFASU (936-468-3958). Students may also take this test at another facility of their choice as long as it is the above named test and version.

To be considered for admission the student must:

- Have a science GPA of 2.75 or above. This GPA is calculated using the student’s grades in Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Microbiology, Chemistry and Pathophysiology. If any of these courses were repeated, the grades will be averaged to determine the science GPA;

- Have an overall GPA of 2.5 or above for all prerequisite courses completed;

- Obtain acceptable scores on the admission test these scores are very important, place close attention to the test;

- Due to the competitiveness of the program the higher all of the above GPA and test scores are the better your chance of admission;

- Be admitted to Stephen F. Austin State University;

- Complete or be in the process of completing all prerequisite courses;

- Pass the criminal background check.

The School of Nursing is currently utilizing the NursingCAS Application System which may be found at https://portal.nursingcas.org. NursingCAS is a centralized application system (CAS)
that allows students to apply to multiple schools and/or programs with a single application. Please refer to the application instructions found on our website for detailed instructions.

**Completing the NursingCAS Application**

You will need to create a NursingCAS account by going to https://portal.nursingcas.org. When creating your account, it is imperative that you follow NursingCAS’s instructions on adding their email address to your safe sender list. We may communicate with you through NursingCAS about your application. Please complete all sections on the application checklist, providing as much detail as possible. All sections must be complete before submitting your application. The Designations Section of the application is where you will indicate the program or programs you wish to receive your application. When selecting the designated school, do not check graduate program in your profile. Graduate programs are on the Master’s level.

NursingCAS charges a fee based on the number of schools to which you apply. You will be charged $45 for the first school designation and $30 for any additional designations. After creating your account through the NursingCAS portal, you will see four blue links: My Application, My Profile, My Messages, and Instructions. First, read any messages you have and then go to Instructions where you will find detailed information needed to fill out each section of the application. There is also an extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), as well as support staff available via phone or email, if needed. Under Participating Nursing Programs, you will be able to select Stephen F. Austin State University, DeWitt School of Nursing as a designated school. All documentation (transcripts, letters of reference, personal statement/essay) should be submitted directly to NursingCAS, not to the School of Nursing. These items MUST be received by Nursing CAS by the posted deadline (September 12th for spring admission and February 1st for fall admission). Please be sure to read the important note above concerning submission of the information.

**Transcripts**

To submit transcripts, applicants must use the Nursing CAS Transcript Matching Form. The Secondary (High) School & Colleges Attended section of the NursingCAS application allows you to print Transcript Request Forms. NursingCAS strongly recommends that you print the Transcript Request Form provided and advise your registrar's office to attach this form to your official transcript. This form helps NursingCAS properly match your official transcripts to your NursingCAS application. If your current name is different from the name listed on your transcript, you MUST include both your current and former name on the Transcript Request Form. All college transcripts, from each institution that you have attended, must be submitted to Nursing CAS; you do not need to submit your high school transcript. If you took dual credit in high school, the transcript from the college/university is to be submitted, not the high school transcript. It is highly recommended that all applicants submit the application and request transcripts at least two months prior to the posted deadline in order to have time to follow up on any problems that might arise. NOTE: Transcripts do not need to be received by Nursing CAS before you submit your application, but must be received by the posted application deadline. You must also apply to SFA and send official transcripts to SFA Office of Admissions, if you have not already done so.

**Coursework**
When entering coursework in NursingCAS, you must enter all courses ever taken for college credit, including high school classes that were dual credit. You must also list those that are in progress or planned for future terms. Once you receive grades for these courses, you must log back into NursingCAS, add the course as a new course, and note the grade earned. You will then need to email nursingapp@sfasu.edu, notifying the admissions staff that you have updated your application with recent grades. Remember that in addition to NursingCAS, you must also apply to SFASU and submit official transcripts to the Office of Admissions, if you have not already done so.

Entrance Test Requirement

The SFASU DeWitt School of Nursing requires the TEAS V Admissions Assessment Test for students applying for admission. The applicant may only take the test once per application period. This test must be taken prior to the posted application deadline. Test scores received after the application deadline will not be considered. TEAS V scores will be sent directly from the testing company for students who register and designate SFASU DeWitt School of Nursing as their school of choice. If SFASU is not designated at the time of testing, it will be the responsibility of the student to submit those scores. Note: TEAS V entrance scores are not placed on NursingCAS. As indicated above, scores may be sent directly to SFA, if taken at another facility. If the test is taken at SFA, the student will be given the test scores following the testing. It is the applicant’s responsibility to have a copy of page one of the test results sent to the School of Nursing Advisor and for you to verify that we have received this copy.

If mailed, the address is:
Nursing Advisor
School of Nursing
5707 North Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Petitions

If you have petitioned a course and received notification of either acceptance or denial from the School of Nursing, a copy of this petition letter will need to be submitted to the School of Nursing along with a copy of page one of the TEAS Nursing exam. It can be sent to the School of Nursing advisor via e-mail, hand delivered or regular mail at the above address.

Follow this link to access the Student Petition Form and Policy.
http://www.sfasu.edu/nursing/images/Petition_instructions_and_form.pdf

Always keep a copy for your records!

References

The DeWitt School of Nursing requires three personal references. At least one of these references should be from a previous faculty member. Requests for references will be made through the NursingCAS system under the Reference section.
**Personal Statement**

Write an essay stating your rationale for choosing nursing as a career and what you have identified as your strengths and weaknesses. The essay must be typed and no longer than 450 words in length. Place your name, address, and telephone number in the top left corner. Please check for grammar and spelling errors prior to submission. This document may then be uploaded into the NursingCAS system under the Personal Statement section.

Please check your application carefully before submission and note that the DeWitt School of Nursing requires that the following sections be completed on the NursingCAS application:

- Biographical Information
- Personal Data
- Parent and Family Information
- Background Information
- Colleges Attended (this includes the college in which a dual credit course(s) were taken)
- Coursework
- Tests
- References
- Personal Statement
- Privacy Statement
- Designation

**Additional Instructions**

Additional information may be requested after you have submitted your application to NursingCAS, so please check your email frequently. Please try to have the additional information requested turned in as rapidly as possible. If you have questions that involve the School of Nursing, send an email to the admissions website, nursingapp@sfasu.edu. If your questions involve the website application, use their “help number”.

**Admission of Students with Credit for Nursing Courses Completed**

Students may be admitted to the SON and be given credit for nursing courses completed at another institution, where they remain in good standing, with a grade of “C” or higher in each nursing course attempted. Students will not be required to take duplicate nursing courses.

Refer to Policy #4 for further information.

**Forgiveness of Grades for Consideration of Admission**

Students who are applying to the SON for admission to the program, who have grades older than seven (7) years, may appeal to have the grades from these courses dropped from GPA calculation. The courses will be counted as required prerequisites courses, only if the course was repeated with achievement of a passing grade. The lower grade will not be calculated into the grade point average, if the above conditions are met. Form 5A should be submitted along with the completed application folder.

Refer to Policy #5 for further information.
Prerequisites to be completed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>COURSE NO.</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
<td>BIO 238 &amp; 239</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Chemistry</td>
<td>CHE 111</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Microbiology</td>
<td>BIO 308 or 309</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Pathophysiology</td>
<td>NUR 304</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Child Development</td>
<td>PSY 376 or HMS 336</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>HMS 236/HMS 236L</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Nutrition</td>
<td>HMS 239 or 355</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>CSC 101 or 121</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Study</td>
<td>SOC 139 or ANT 231</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>ENG 131 &amp; 132</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective I</td>
<td>See Group I (reverse side)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective II</td>
<td>See Group II (reverse side)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective III</td>
<td>See Group III (reverse side)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>PSY 133</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>MTH 220</td>
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<td><strong>Total Prerequisites</strong></td>
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*Cognates: Specified cognates must be completed and passed with at least a grade of C for acceptance into the program. Grades for repeated courses will be averaged.
# Model Curriculum Outline

## FRESHMAN YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 131</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 133</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 111</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSC 101 or 121</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective I*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 132</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 238</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 133</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 139/ANT 231</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective III***</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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## SOPHOMORE YEAR

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<tr>
<td>HMS 236/236L or</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 376/HMS 336</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMS 239 or 355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective II**</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 141</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 239</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>16 or 17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTH 220</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 308 or 309</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 304 (Patho)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Elective III***</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 141</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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## JUNIOR YEAR

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<td>NUR 305</td>
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<td>NUR 306</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 308</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>NUR 330</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 331</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 332</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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</table>

## SUMMER SESSION

Complete HIS 134 and PSC 142 courses, if not already completed.  6

## SENIOR YEAR

<table>
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<td>NUR 407</td>
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<td>NUR 408</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>NUR 431</td>
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<td>NUR 432</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 433</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

120 hours required for graduation. Student may take additional elective course, if needed for graduation.

See BSN Brochure on nursing website (www.nursing.sfasu.edu) for prerequisites and other nursing application information for the School of Nursing.

Prescribed Electives:

*Select one from Group I

ART 280, 281, 282; MUS 140; MHL 245; THR 161, 370; DAN 140, 341

**Select one from Group II

ENG 200-230

***Select two from Group III

BCM 247; COM 111, 170; ENG 273; SPH 172, 272 (Sign Language); FRE 131, 132; ILA 111, 112 (Ind. Language); SPA 131, 132

Prescribed Nursing Electives:

RN-BSN ONLINE TRANSITION TRACK

The School of Nursing at SFA encourages nurses who have completed their nursing education in either an associate degree or diploma program to obtain the baccalaureate degree in nursing. The RN-BSN Online Transition track was established for the student who has previously passed the NCLEX-RN and has current licensure as a registered nurse and wishes to obtain the baccalaureate degree. The RN-BSN track courses are online.

RN-BSN Online Transition Admission Policy

A student requesting admission to the baccalaureate program in nursing must meet the following criteria:

Full Admission
1. Acceptance to SFA.
2. Current licensure to practice as a registered nurse and working as a Registered Nurse.
3. Overall GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite courses, including transfer courses.

The following courses must be completed prior to admission to the School of Nursing:

Eight hours from: *BIO 238 and 239
Three hours from: *PSY 133
Three hours from: NUR 304 or 438
Three hours from NUR 308 or 436

The following courses may be completed before or after admission to the School of Nursing:

Six hours from: *ENG 131 and 132
Four hours from: *CHE 111
Four hours from: *BIO 308 or 309
Three or four hours from: *HMS 236/HMS (4 hrs) 236L or PSY 210 or HMS 336 (3 hrs)
Three hours from: *HMS 239 or 355
Three hours from: *CSC 101 or 121
Three hours from: *SOC 139 or ANT 231
Three hours from: Prescribed Elective I (see model curriculum outline)
Three hours from: Prescribed Elective II (see model curriculum outline)
Six hours from: Prescribed Elective III (see model curriculum outline)
Three hours from: MTH 220
Six hours from: PSC 141 & 142
Six hours from: HIS 133 & 134
Four hours from: Nursing Electives (see list of Prescribed Nursing Electives)
Admission Process – Students may be admitted based on completion of prerequisites and attainment of admission criteria. When spaces are limited, admission of qualified applicants will be processed in the order received. To be considered for admission, the student must complete the following:

*Completed application to NursingCAS (www.nursingcas.org)
*Complete, official copies of transcripts from all previous colleges and SFA transcript to be submitted to NursingCAS
*Copies of accepted or denied petitions or petitions being submitted to be sent to School of Nursing;
*Copy of current licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Application Deadline – The deadline for application for admission is January 25 each year. Applications received after this deadline will be considered only if vacancies still exist in the incoming class. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all application materials are received by the NursingCAS system and the School of Nursing prior to the deadline.

Students who have completed courses at other collegiate institutions may transfer credits under the policies of SFA. A maximum of 66 academic semester hours may be transferred from a junior college. There is no limit to the number of senior college hours that may be transferred; however, 42 hours, of which 36 hours are advanced (300-499 level), must be completed in residence at SFA. Advanced Placement credit does not count as hours toward residency.

RN-BSN ONLINE TRANSITION TRACK PROGRESSION PROCEDURE AND COURSES

434. Professional Transition I (Web-based) – Six semester hours. This course builds upon principles and theories from previous, concurrent, and prerequisite courses. Students will have the opportunity for acquisition and application of nursing history, theory, research, and practice as a BSN. Emphasis is placed on professional communication, critical thinking, nursing process, and nursing roles and responsibilities. Prerequisites: RN license, admission to RN-BSN Transition Track program. Required incidental course fees.

435. Professional Transition II (Web-based) – Six semester hours. This course builds on NUR 434 (Professional Transition I) and previous, concurrent and prerequisite courses. Students will have the opportunity to analyze current trends and issues in nursing and health care that impact the role of the BSN. Prerequisites: RN license, NUR 434.

436. RN-BSN Pharmacology (Web-based) – Three semester didactic hours. Establishes a foundation for the pharmacological aspects of nursing. Prerequisites: RN license, BIO 238, and BIO 239. Schedule varies; please consult with advisor or RN Transition Track coordinator. Required incidental course fees.

437. RN-BSN Health Assessment (Web-based) – Two semester hours, one hour didactic and three hours clinical practicum (NUR 437L). Acquisition and application of nursing assessment skills for clients throughout the lifespan to provide a basis for critical thinking and nursing practice decisions. Prerequisites: RN license, NUR 434, and NUR 435. Schedule varies; please consult with advisor or RN Transition Track coordinator. Required incidental course fees.
438. **RN-BSN Pathophysiology (Web-based)** – Three semester didactic hours. Provides foundation for core concepts of human pathophysiology upon which evidence-based nursing practice is founded. Prerequisites: RN license, BIO 238, BIO 239, and permission of instructor. Schedule varies; please consult with advisor or RN Transition Track coordinator. Required incidental course fees.

439. **RN-BSN Research and Application (Web-based)** – Three semester hours, two hours didactic and three hours clinical practicum (NUR 439L). Introduction of concepts and process of research in nursing with an emphasis on the techniques for critiquing published research studies and development of ability to use nursing and interdisciplinary research to guide nursing practice. Prerequisites: RN license, MTH 220; NUR 434, and NUR 435.

440. **RN-BSN Care of Community Populations (Web-based)** – Three semester hours, two hour didactic and three hours clinical practicum (NUR 440L). Application of nursing theory, research and practice to community populations with focus on health promotion, prevention of illness and the impact of situational and developmental stressors on social units. Prerequisites: RN license, NUR 434, and NUR 435. Required incidental course fees.

441. **RN-BSN Leadership (Web-based)** – Four semester hours, two hour didactic and six hours clinical practicum (NUR 441L). Students apply critical thinking management, leadership and nursing theories and research while coordinating nursing care of multiple clients. The role of the nurse as a leader and manager within the disciplinary health care team and system will be emphasized. Prerequisites: RN license, NUR 434, and NUR 435. Pre- or Co-requisite: NUR 440.

Nursing 436 and NUR 438 are required before entering the RN-BSN Transition Track program. Nursing 434 and NUR 435 are the bridging courses for the RN-BSN Transition Track student. The student will receive six hours of credit for NUR 434 (Professional Transition I) and six credit hours for NUR 435 (Professional Transition II). Following successful completion of these two courses (NUR 434 and NUR 435), the student will be given 32 hours advanced credit for the following nursing courses: NUR 305, 306, 330, 331, 332, 406, 407, and 408. Students in the RN-BSN Transition Track will complete the following nursing courses: NUR 434, 435, 437, 439, 440, and 441. Degree plans will finalize requirements.

**Suggested Program of Study**

After completion of all prerequisite courses, the suggested program of study is based on the following model:

**Summer I (6 hours)**

* NUR 434, Professional Transition I

**Summer II (6 hours)**

* NUR 435, Professional Transition II

**Fall (5 hours)**

* NUR 439, Research (3 hours)
* NUR 437, Health Assessment (2 hours)
Spring (7 hours)
*NUR 441, Leadership (4 hours)
*NUR 440, Care of Community Populations (3 hours)

*Nursing Electives (4 hours)  See list of Prescribed Nursing Electives below:

**Prescribed Nursing Electives:**

NUR 340  Communication in Health Care, two hours  
NUR 343  Women's Health Issues, two hours  
NUR 350  History of the Nursing Profession, one hour  
NUR 351  Current Issues and Trends in Nursing, one hour  
NUR 352  Ethics in Nursing, one hour  
NUR 353  Complementary and Alternative Therapies, one hour  
NUR 354  Healthy Aging, two hours  
NUR 355  Child Health Issues, two hours  
NUR 356  Birthing Practices in U.S. and Beyond, two hours  
NUR 358  Exploring Grief, one hour  
NUR 451  Violence in Families, two hours  
NUR 452  Perioperative Nursing, two hours  
NUR 453  Jurisprudence, one hour

If further information is required, please contact:

**The Texas Board of Nursing**
P. O. Box 430  
Austin, TX  78767-0430  
(512) 305-7400

**Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)**
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
(404) 975-5000

All School of Nursing information is available online at www.nursing.sfasu.edu/nursing.  
Specific helpful links are Admission Process and Brochures.

**Transfer Policy**

Students who have previously attended a regionally accredited institution must apply to SFASU as transfer students.  
SFASU accepts transfer credit from regionally accredited institutions on a course-by-course basis as determined by the Office of Admissions. All courses are examined in terms of content, level, and credit hours awarded; the courses are subject to the following conditions:

- A maximum of 66 academic hours may be transferred from a junior or community college.
- There is no limit to the number of senior college hours that may be transferred. However, 42 semester hours (of which 36 hours are 300-499 level) must be completed in residence at SFA. Advanced Placement credit does not count as hours towards residency.
• **Course Equivalency Link:** Use this link to see if your courses are equivalent to you SFASU standards for the course acceptance.

**RN BSN Challenge**

RN-BSN students may choose to challenge pathophysiology, health assessment, and/or pharmacology if they believe they have previously mastered the content in these areas.

The student must petition the Student Affairs Committee. The student will be instructed to enroll in the course and pay tuition and fees. After enrollment is complete, the student will notify the instructor of the intent to challenge and a test will be ordered. The student is responsible for the costs associated with this test. The test is a nationally standardized examination in pathophysiology, health assessment, or pharmacology. For the challenge to be successful, a minimum of 70 must be obtained for pathophysiology, and a minimum of 75 must be obtained for health assessment and pharmacology. The testing should be completed prior to the 12th class day. Students will be responsible for all work in the class until the challenge is completed. Refer to policy #14 for further information.

**Retention and Progression Policy for BSN Generic and RN/BSN programs**

Students must maintain satisfactory standards in classroom and clinical activities to be retained and to progress in the program. Requirements are as follows:

- Have a weighted test score mean of 75% or above.
- Have an overall course grade of 75% or above.
- Receive a grade of Pass for the clinical portion of each course with a clinical component.
- Receive no more than 2 “F” days in the clinical portion of courses with a clinical component.
- Meet all course requirements, as specified in course syllabi and related School policies.
- Students who fail to meet any of the above criteria will receive an F for the course.
- Students who fail any two (2) nursing courses will be dismissed from the SFASU School of Nursing Program. This includes nursing courses transferred from another institution.
- A nursing course may be repeated one time only. A maximum of three (3) different nursing courses may be repeated, including those dropped with a W or WP grade.
- Students who receive five (5) clinical “F” days will be dismissed from the SFASU School of Nursing program.
- On the first failure of a nursing course, the student may refer to this policy.
- The Student Affairs Committee will meet and make recommendations to the School Director for progression. If there are insufficient clinical spaces available to accommodate the number of students recommended for progression, the Student Affairs Committee will prioritize the list of students and submit the list to the Director of the SON for final disposition.
- Students who voluntarily withdraw from the program must petition Student Affairs for readmission. Students will be readmitted on a case by case basis.

Refer to Policy #25 for further information.
Course Descriptions

Refer to the SFASU Undergraduate Catalog for course descriptions.

Grading Scale for Nursing Courses

90-100 .................................................................................................................................. A
80-89 .................................................................................................................................... B
75-79 .................................................................................................................................... C
74 & below ........................................................................................................................... F

Academic Advising

All declared nursing majors will be advised through the College of Science and Mathematics until they have completed between thirty (30) and forty-two (42) hours credit. They will then be advised at the SON by the SON Academic Advisor. Although each student is responsible to ensure that courses selected will meet degree requirements, the SON will help students choose courses with special attention to prerequisites, petitions, and advancing sequences.

The SON Academic Advisor is located at the DeWitt SON in Rm 100. Please use this link to schedule an appointment.


Refer to Policy #6 for further information.

Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid

Refer to the catalog for course tuition, fees and financial aid. Tuition and fees are published in the current university catalog and class schedule bulletin. Financial assistance is available for qualifying students through the financial aid office.

Nursing scholarships are available. Applications may be obtained on the DeWitt School of Nursing web page.

Refer to the General Information section of the bulletin for university policies such as: Anti-discrimination and Student Right to Know. Individuals can access the Disability Services web page at www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices or call 936-468-3004.

Nursing Program Requirements

Absence from Examinations

An excused absence is being absent from the scheduled exam as the result of an illness or the illness of an immediate family member or a significant other, a religious holiday, the result of a catastrophic event, or any event approved by the instructor. If so instructed by the instructor, the student must bring a written excuse from the professional health care provider. If the student has an excused absence from an exam, the instructor has the option of requiring a make-up exam or increasing the percentage of points of another test. All final
Exams are mandatory. Any missed final exam will result in an incomplete grade until the final exam is taken. In the event of an imminent absence, the student will:

- Notify the instructor prior to the exam
- Contact the instructor within two (2) days following the exam, in order to make arrangements to take the exam.
- If the absence is unexcused, a zero (0) will be received for the exam.

Refer to Policy #20 for further information.

NLCEX Review Policy

Students will complete NCLEX practice questions in each clinical course to prepare them for the national nursing comprehensive achievement test for licensure.

Refer to Policy #24 for further information.

Academic Integrity

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class;
- Falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or,
- Helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another;
- Submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and,
- Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic integrity should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals of Students (6.3).

Conference Forms

A conference form is necessary to facilitate and record communications between faculty and students regarding professional expectations and student performance. Counseling Form 22 will be used to document this communication and placed in the student file. A copy will be given to the student. This same form can be used as an “F” Day form and should be completed as deemed necessary.

Refer to Policy #22 for further information.
Faculty and Course Evaluations

All students will be given the opportunity to evaluate their instructors and the course at the completion of the course. This should be regarded as a privilege and a right, with inherent responsibility for objectivity. The comments are anonymous and confidential. Form 38A (for face to face courses) and 38B (for online courses) list the evaluation items that will be answered through an online portal. Refer to Policy #38 for further information.

Clinical Requirements

Criminal History Check

All students in the SON should have a DPS/FBI criminal background check before attending clinical. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) requires criminal background checks for security purposes on all employees, staff, and volunteers who supervise care, render treatment, and provide services in clinical facilities. Background checks will be conducted by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). The SON will notify the student to arrange a fingerprint scanning appointment with an approved fingerprinting/background check site. Please see the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) website for authorized locations. The student will pay for both the fingerprint scanning services and the cost of the DPS/FBI background check. The BON will mail a postcard directly to those students who have clear background checks. The student will then give this to the SON. In the event the background is not clear, the BON will request a petition for the declaratory order from the student. The student will then give a copy of this petition to the SON. The student will pay for the declaratory order. A student will not be allowed in the clinical areas until there is a clear background check, a declaratory order, or other clearance from the BON. Any student that has completed the background check will not have to complete another prior to graduation. Refer to Policy #11 for further information.

Urine Drug Screen

Students will have a urine drug screen completed and on file after being accepted to the SON and prior to attending clinical. Refer to Policy # 13 for further information.

Student Impaired By Chemical Dependency

The School of Nursing (SON) at Stephen F. Austin State University seeks to maintain an environment free from substance abuse to promote a safe, healthy and productive learning environment. The SON is also mandated by law to ensure the safety and well being of faculty, staff, students, patients and clients.

To achieve this environment and comply with the legal mandate, the SON, upon reasonable cause to suspect that the ability of a nursing student to perform the services of the nursing profession would be, or would reasonably be expected to be, impaired by chemical dependency, ensure that the student is tested for drugs and alcohol. Upon a positive finding, the SON shall file with the Texas Board of Nursing a written, signed report that
includes the identity of the student and any additional information the Board requires as stated in the Texas Nurse Practice Act sec. 301.404.

Consent

1. Each student shall sign a consent form to undergo drug and alcohol testing upon request while a student in the SON.

2. Each student shall sign a consent form for the information obtained during drug and alcohol testing to be shared with members of the SON faculty, the SON standards committee members, and the University ICARE Team, as necessary. Faculty will make every effort to ensure the information remains confidential.

Testing

If it is brought to the attention of the SON, by anyone in any manner, that any student may be impaired by chemical dependency, the Standards Committee will immediately investigate the matter.

The Standards Committee may require that:

1. The student submit to drug and alcohol testing as soon as possible after the accusation is made because drugs and alcohol may be quickly metabolized and excreted by the body.
2. The Standards Committee may arrange transportation of the student directly to a designated testing center accompanied by a SON representative if appropriate. This representative shall:
   a. be the faculty member who identified the student; and/or
   b. a co-instructor in the class in which the behavior occurred; and/or
   c. be a member of Standards Committee; and/or
      d. be a faculty member.
      e. The University Police Department (UPD) has agreed to help with transportation if necessary. Every effort will be made to ensure the safety of the student.
3. The student shall be excluded from all clinical activities pending results of the drug and/or alcohol test.
4. The Standards Committee will review the results of the drug and/or alcohol test as soon as they are available.
5. If the results of the drug and/or alcohol test are negative, the matter may be dismissed without prejudice.
6. If the student refuses the test, or if there is evidence of tampering with a blood, hair, breath or any urine sample, the test may be deemed positive.

Positive Results

If the results are positive, the Standards Committee shall hold a hearing within three (3) working days, hearing written and oral evidence, including witnesses’ statements, unless the student signs a written waiver of the hearing.

Upon completion of the hearing, the Standards Committee may recommend one or more of the following:
1. Dismissal without prejudice;
2. Notification of the “iCARE” university team;
3. Notification of the Texas Board of Nursing pursuant to section 301.404 of the Texas Nurse Practice Act;
4. Immediate dismissal from the nursing program with a grade of “F” in all current clinical courses;
5. Enrollment in a drug and/or alcohol counseling programs, Alcoholics Anonymous or a similar group;
6. Other actions the committee deems appropriate.

Documentation

The Standards Committee will document the above events.

Burden of Proof

The burden of proof in all matters shall be “reasonable cause.” It shall be based upon the following, including, but not limited to:

1. Direct observation of drug or alcohol use or possession, and/or demonstration of physical and/or mental signs and symptoms of the influence of a drug or alcohol;
2. A pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior, consistent with alcohol or drug abuse;
3. Arrest or conviction of a drug or alcohol related offense;
4. Evidence that a student has tampered with a drug or alcohol test;
5. Possession of drug paraphernalia.

Refer to Policy #9 for further information

Immunization Policy

- Immunization against communicable diseases is necessary for the health of students, clients, and the public. Immunization is mandated by the Texas Department of Health, the University, and our clinical agencies. All students will show proof of current:
  - MMR immunization or serologic confirmation of immunity.
  - Td (tetanus-diphtheria toxoid) immunization.
  - Hepatitis B series or serologic confirmation of immunity.
  - Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine unless:
    - The first dose was received prior to thirteen (13) years of age
    - There is serologic confirmation of immunity
    - A parent, guardian, or physician submits written confirmation of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity in lieu of vaccine.
  - Polio vaccine.
  - Meningococcal vaccine (a booster may be required)
  - Flu vaccine
  - All students will show proof of TB skin test unless they have had documented significant reactions (10 mm or more). In this event, students will show proof of respiratory examinations once every two (2) years. These students will be referred to the Texas Department of Health. Students will not be able to attend class or clinical until clearance from Texas Department of Health has been presented to the SON.
• Each student should submit proof of immunization to Student Health Services and the SON.
• All students should have all immunizations documented in the SON at least two (2) weeks (fourteen calendar days) before the first class day of each semester.
• If students fail to meet the above requirements and do not have all immunizations documented in the SON prior to the first class day of each semester, they will not be allowed to attend either lectures or clinical. Failure to attend lectures result in an absence. Failure to attend clinical results in an “F” day.

Refer to Policy #7 for further information.

Liability Insurance Requirements

All nursing students are required to have liability insurance coverage. This fee is included in each student’s course fees and billed by the University. Refer to Policy #8 for further information. Refer to Policy #7 for further information.

Health Insurance for Students

All students should have personal health insurance and will show proof to the Secretary of the SON before the first day of each semester. This along with a copy of the student’s ID will be submitted. If not submitted prior to the first clinical day, the student will receive an “F” day.

Refer to Policy #10 for further information.

Healthcare Provider BLS Certification for Students

All students must show proof of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support certification prior to going to clinical each semester. Proof will be submitted to the SON Secretary. Failure to comply will result in an “F” day.

Refer to Policy #12 for further information.

Uniform Requirements

Students are requested to refer to course syllabi for specific uniform requirements.

Students must wear a name tag in all clinical sites that is obtained from the Student Services Office in the Student Center. The approved badge has the student’s picture and name in one of the following formats:
• Mary Jones, SFASU Nursing Student or
• M. Jones, SFASU Nursing Student or
• Mary, SFASU Nursing Student

• A white scrub dress, white scrub top and white scrub pants, or white scrub top and purple scrub pants with a purple SFASU patch that can be obtained from one of the bookstores or uniform stores.
• White hose or white socks.
• Professional white closed toe shoes or white athletic shoes with white shoestrings, clean and polished.
• Hair must be clean, neatly groomed, and if shoulder length, tied back so that it does not interfere with performance in clinical. No ornate hair ornaments or bows will be worn. Beards or mustaches should be short and neatly groomed.
• Nails should be short and neatly groomed, not to exceed one-fourth of an inch beyond the fingertip. No nail polish is allowed. No artificial nails are allowed.
• Due to potential spread of infection and injury, jewelry must be kept to a minimum. Earrings must be small studs and only one matching pair should be worn. If rings are worn, it should be a wedding ring or band only and limited to one ring per hand. Body jewelry (tongue, eyebrow, nose, lip rings, etc), necklaces, and bracelets are not allowed.
• Due to close contact with patients, deodorants and antiperspirant should be worn. No colognes, perfumes, or aftershaves should be applied.
• All cosmetics should be conservative and worn in moderation.
• Tattoos shall be covered by clothing and not visible.
• Patterned underwear and t-shirts worn under clothing should not be visible. T-shirts should be white only.
• Skits should be between mid-calf and mid-knee in length.
• White lab coats will be worn over street clothes if in a clinical facility.
• Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in an “F” day.

Refer to Policy #18 for further information.

Supplies for assessment

Students must also have a stethoscope that will effectively detect both high and low pitched sounds and a watch that keeps time in seconds. An assessment kit will be purchased through your lab fees and will be given to the student the first day of class.

Clinical Absences

In order for an absence to be excused, the student must be excused directly by the clinical instructor. If so directed by the instructor, the student must bring a written excuse by the health care provider.

An unexcused absence will result in a clinical “F” day.

Unexcused absences are defined as any absence that was not cleared with the instructor prior to the clinical experience, or any absence not directly related to illness of self, or death of immediate family member or significant other.

In the event of an imminent absence, the student will:
• Notify the instructor according to his/her (the instructor’s) stated instructions in the syllabus.
• Notify the clinical agency, if appropriate, at least one hour prior to scheduled clinical experience.
• Absence of more than ten percent (10%) of clinical time will result in failure of the course.

A student may petition an adverse action pursuant to the ten percent (10%) absence rule to the Student Affairs Committee. The petition may be handled in an expedited manner if
appropriate. Documentation supporting the reason for the absence will be required with the petition. Refer to Policy #21 for further information.

F Day Policy

Unacceptable nursing practice in the clinical setting is grounds for receiving a Clinical Fail Day, also known as an “F” Day. Form 22 will be used to document the F Day. Refer to Policy #22 for further information.

Grievance Procedure

A student that wishes to appeal a grade or file a complaint may do so by first attempting to resolve the matter with the instructor within 30 days of the start of the next semester. If not resolved, the student is to contact the Level Coordinator and Assistant Director. If not resolved, the student can petition the Student Affairs Committee. If not resolved, then the student can contact the Director.

If grievance is in reference to a clinical course and results in failure of the course, the student will not be allowed to be present in clinical setting until the grievance is resolved. Refer to Policy #26 for further information.

Disciplinary Action Policy

Students enrolled in the Nursing program assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with established standards of Stephen F. Austin State University, School of Nursing, and professional nursing.

Students violating the University or School of Nursing policies will be subject to disciplinary action and may be dismissed from the nursing program. Acts for which students are subject to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

1. Violation of University policies for which dismissal from the university is imposed.
2. Providing any information that is false, deceptive, misleading in connection with one’s own application to the School of Nursing for acceptance into the Nursing program.
3. Failing to maintain malpractice insurance coverage.
4. Failing to maintain minimum academic standards.
5. Failing to accurately, or intelligibly, report or document a client’s symptoms, responses, or progresses, or failing to do so under circumstances that indicate a disregard for client safety and welfare.
6. Failing to make entries, and/or making false entries, in records pertaining to the giving of medications, treatments, or nursing care, or failing to do so under circumstances that indicate a disregard of client safety and welfare.
7. Failing to follow the Policy and Procedure for wastage of medications at the facility in which the student is receiving clinical instruction.

8. Misappropriating medications at the facility in which the student is receiving clinical instruction.

9. Failing to administer medications and/or other treatments in a responsive manner.

10. Failing to take all precautionary measures necessary to prevent the loss or unauthorized appropriation of medications.

11. Passing, or attempting to pass, a forged, altered, or falsified prescription.

12. Performing, or attempting to perform, nursing techniques or procedures beyond expected student competencies or scope of practice.

13. Violating the confidentiality of information concerning the client except, or as allowed, by law.

14. To cause, suffer, permit, or allow physical or emotional injury to the client, or failing to report same, in accordance with incident reporting procedures in effect where the student is receiving clinical instruction.

15. Leaving a nursing assignment without notifying appropriate personnel.

16. Failing to report to the nursing instructor, within a reasonable time of the occurrence, any violations of the Texas Nurse Practice Act.

17. Delegating nursing care functions or responsibilities to a person who lacks the ability or knowledge to perform the function.

18. Failing to demonstrate use of the nursing process appropriate to the course level in the care of clients.

19. Failing to conform with established School of Nursing dress code standards.

20. Failing to accept directions or refusing to accept an assignment from an instructor

Students have the responsibility to be physically and mentally prepared, present, and punctual for all clinical assignments and appointments. Students will not be excused early to go to work.

If the student is unable to keep a clinical appointment with an agency or client on a given day, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the agency, client, and the instructor. The student is expected to display professional behavior by not accepting gifts or gratuities from clients.

Students will receive a verbal warning at the time of the occurrence, followed by a written counseling slip before next clinical week, documenting the incident and specifying the consequences for actions.

Refer to Policy #23 for further information
Clinical Proficiency

In the event a student fails to enroll or complete a clinical component for any reason, and does not complete the course during the next semester, that student will be required to demonstrate clinical proficiency before being allowed to continue in the program. Refer to Policy #29 for further information.

Nursing Knowledge and Clinical Proficiency after Four Years

A student who does not take the RN licensing exam (NCLEX) within four years of graduation from the nursing program must completely reeducate the curriculum of study by reapplying to the nursing program. Refer to Policy #33 for further information.

Blood or Body Fluid Exposure

In the event a student comes into contact with blood or body fluids in the clinical setting, the student and faculty are to follow the clinical site protocol for Blood borne Pathogen exposure. Immediate treatment will be provided to the student at the clinical site where the injury occurred. Refer to Policy #19 for further information.

Transportation of Patients

Students are not to transport patients in their personal vehicles. If patients are in need of this service, volunteers and agencies may provide this service. Refer to Policy #30 for further information.

Simulation Center

The DeWitt School of Nursing has a new 41,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. The facility has three wings which include the administration area, the educational area, and the Ed and Gwen Cole Simulation Laboratory. There are four classrooms, which seat 100 students each. One classroom has computers built into the desks. The simulation laboratory is 9,000 square feet with a 10-bed medical surgical area, a labor and delivery area, a nursery and neonatal area, a health assessment lab, and an emergency room area. The Ed and Gwen Cole Simulation Laboratory has 11 high-fidelity mannequins, which can simulate any patient condition, and are operated by faculty from a remote area. One of the simulators is a female mannequin that actually gives birth. The Ed and Gwen Cole Simulation Laboratory is a Laerdal Center of Excellence, one of only three centers in the state of Texas.

Students may only use the Simulation Lab with a member of the DeWitt SON faculty or staff present. Students will complete Form 34B at the beginning of each semester. Refer to Policy #34 for further information.

Clinical Supervision by Preceptors

When nursing instructors are not able to be in the clinical setting to supervise students, clinical preceptors will supervise nursing interventions of students. Preceptors can be Registered Nurses with a Bachelors of Nursing or be an experienced nurse. Medical Doctors
may also serve as preceptors. Preceptors will sign a Preceptor Agreement annually. 
Refer to Policy #72 for further information.

Clinical Incident

The student is required to notify faculty at the time of the event and complete the clinical agency’s incident report form. 
Refer to Policy #71 for further information.

Student Evaluation of Clinical Agency, Preceptor, Course, Course Instructor, and Clinical Instructor

At the end of the student’s clinical rotation, the student will have the opportunity to evaluate the clinical agency, preceptor, course, course instructor, and clinical instructor through an online portal.

Evaluation of Student Clinical Performance

Students will receive formative clinical evaluations throughout the semester from their instructor. Each student will receive a written clinical evaluation at the completion of each clinical course. This will be discussed with the student and will be asked to sign and date the evaluation before it is placed in the student’s permanent record. If the student disagrees with the evaluation, the student will be referred to the Student Affairs Committee. 
Refer to Policy #41 for further information.

American Nursing Association (ANA) Standards of Nursing Practice

1. The collection of data about the health status of the client/patient is systematic and continuous. The data is accessible, communicated, and recorded.
2. Nursing diagnoses are derived from health status data.
3. The plan of nursing care includes goals derived from the nursing diagnoses.
4. The plan of nursing care includes priorities and the prescribed nursing approaches or measures to achieve the goals derived from the nursing diagnoses.
5. Nursing actions provide for the client/patient participation in health promotion, maintenance, and restoration.
6. Nursing actions assist the client/patient to maximize his health capabilities.
7. The client’s progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement is determined by the client/patient and the nurse.
8. The client’s progress or lack of progress toward goal achievement directs reassessment, reordering of priorities, new goal setting, and a revision of the plan of nursing care.
The Code of Ethics for Nurses was developed as a guide for carrying out nursing responsibilities in a manner consistent with quality in nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession.

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and unique attributes of every person.
2. The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community or population.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.
4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.
7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.
9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

Texas Board of Nurse Examiners

Until Fall 2003, the documents entitled, The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 1998) and The Essential Competencies of Texas Graduate of Education Programs in Nursing (Nursing Education Advisory Committee (NEAC) Report, 1993) were used as the professional standards for the curriculum. These standards served as the basis for the development, review, and revision of the undergraduate nursing curricula. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) required that the NEAC competencies be fully implemented by all schools by 1997. The process of assuring congruence with the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELC) of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (Texas Board of Nursing (BON), 2002) has been completed. Ongoing assurance of congruence will be a goal of the program. The AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice and the DELCs have been coded numerically and are found in this document.
Currently, the connection between the nursing curriculum, the AACN standards and the DECs for professional nursing has been identified with the table in the syllabus for each nursing course. The table correlates course objectives with the DECs and the AACN essentials. These standards are consistent with those established by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

**Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Programs (DECs, 2010)**

I. Member of the Profession:
   A. Function within the nurse’s legal scope of practice and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the employing health care institution or practice setting.
   B. Assume responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care provided to patients, families, populations, and communities.
   C. Promote the practice of professional nursing through leadership activities and advocacy.
   D. Demonstrate responsibility for continued competence in nursing practice, and develop insight through reflection, self-analysis, self-care, and lifelong learning.

II. Provider of Patient-Centered Care:
   A. Use clinical reasoning and knowledge based on the baccalaureate degree nursing program of study, evidence based practice outcomes, and research studies as the basis for decision-making and comprehensive patient care.
   B. Determine the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients, families, populations, and communities based upon interpretation of comprehensive health assessment findings compared with evidence-based health data and a synthesis of knowledge derived from a baccalaureate degree nursing program of study.
   C. Synthesize comprehensive assessment data to identify problems, formulate goals/outcomes, and develop plans of care for patients, families, populations, and communities using information from evidence-based practice and published research in collaboration with the above groups and the interdisciplinary health care team.
   D. Provide safe, compassionate, comprehensive nursing care to patients, families, populations, and communities through a broad array of health care services.
   E. Implement the plan of care for patients, families, populations, and communities within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of disease prevention, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.
   F. Evaluate and report patient, family, population, and community outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to benchmarks from evidence based practice and research findings, and plan follow-up nursing care.
   G. Develop, implement, and evaluate teaching plans for patients, families, populations, and communities to address health promotion, maintenance, restoration, and population risk reduction.
   H. Coordinate human, information, and materiel management resources in providing care for patients, families, populations, and communities.

III. Patient Safety Advocate:
   A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Texas Nursing Practice Act (NPA) and the Texas Board of Nursing Rules that emphasize safety, as well as all federal, state, and local government and accreditation organization safety requirements and standards.
B. Implement measures to promote quality and a safe environment for patients, self, and others.
C. Formulate goals and outcomes using an evidence-based and theoretical analysis of available data to reduce patient and community risks.
D. Obtain instruction, supervision, or training as needed when implementing nursing procedures or practices.
E. Comply with mandatory reporting requirements of the Texas NPA.
F. Accept and make assignments and delegate tasks that take into consideration patient safety and organizational policy.

IV. Member of the Health Care Team:
A. Coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with patients, families, populations, communities, and the interdisciplinary health care team to plan, deliver, and evaluate care.
B. Serve as a health care advocate in monitoring and promoting quality and access to health care for patients, families, populations, and communities.
C. Use multiple referral resources for patients, families, populations, and communities considering cost, confidentiality, effectiveness and efficiency of care, continuity and continuum of care, and health promotion, maintenance, and restoration.
D. Communicate and collaborate in a timely manner with members of the interdisciplinary health care team to promote and maintain the optimal health status of patients, families, populations, and communities.
E. Communicate and manage information using technology to support decision-making to improve patient care and delivery systems.
F. Assign and/or delegate nursing care to other members of the health care team based upon an analysis of patient or organizational need.
G. Supervise nursing care provided by others for whom the nurse is responsible by using best practices of management, leadership, and evaluation.