
LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of NURSING

RN *to* BSN
Student Handbook

2017-2018 Academic Year

Table of Contents

Liberty University Information	2
Statement of Mission and Purpose	3
Statement of Essential Attributes	4
Overview of the RN-BSN Program	7
Expectations for Faculty, Staff, and Students	10
RN-BSN Admission Information	13
Transcript Evaluations and Transfer Policy	13
Background Check and Licensure Verification	14
Curriculum Objectives	14
RN-BSN Course Information	15
Grading and Important Policies	22
Resources	24
Registration and Payment	26

Liberty University Information

THE UNIVERSITY

Liberty University is the largest private, nonprofit university in the nation, the largest university in Virginia, and the largest Christian university in the world. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains on more than 7,000 beautiful acres in Lynchburg, VA, Liberty offers over 590 programs from the certificate to the doctoral level, and is home to more than 110,000 residential and online students.

ACCREDITATION

Liberty University is regionally accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#) (SACS-COC) to award degrees at associate, baccalaureate, master's, education specialist and doctoral levels. The School of Nursing offers a generic residential Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, a RN to BSN degree, a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree which are all fully accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#) (CCNE) and approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center houses several large lecture halls, modern classrooms, and simulation labs. The School of Nursing is housed on the second floor of DeMoss Hall and includes 32,300 square feet, an OB Theater equipped with a birthing mannequin, health assessment suites and an interactive team spot/classroom spot.

LOCATION

In the heart of Virginia, Liberty University is located in Lynchburg on the south banks of the historic James River with the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains as a back drop. The city is over 200 years old and is noted for its culture, beauty, and educational advantages. Lynchburg is at the crossroads of U.S. highway 29 and 460 and has adequate transportation facilities via bus, railway, and air.

Statement of Mission and Purpose

Maintaining the vision of the founder, Dr. Jerry Falwell, Liberty University develops Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills essential to impact the world.

Through its residential and online programs, the University educates men and women who will make important contributions to their workplaces and communities, follow their chosen vocations as callings to glorify God, and fulfill the Great Commission.

Liberty University will:

1. Emphasize excellence in teaching and learning.
2. Foster university-level competencies in communication, critical thinking, information literacy, and mathematics in all undergraduate programs.
3. Ensure competency in scholarship, research, and professional communication in all graduate programs.
4. Promote the synthesis of academic knowledge and Christian worldview in order that there might be a maturing of spiritual, intellectual, social and physical value-driven behavior.
5. Enable students to engage in a major field of study in career-focused disciplines built on a solid foundation in the liberal arts.
6. Promote an understanding of the Western tradition and the diverse elements of American cultural history, especially the importance of the individual in maintaining democratic and free market processes.
7. Contribute to a knowledge and understanding of other cultures and of international events.
8. Encourage a commitment to the Christian life, one of personal integrity, sensitivity to the needs of others, social responsibility and active communication of the Christian faith, and, as it is lived out, a life that leads people to Jesus Christ as the Lord of the universe and their own personal Savior.

Statement of Essential Attributes

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments. This Statement of Essential Attributes is based on an understanding that practicing nursing as a student necessarily involves an agreement to uphold the trust which society has placed in us (ANA Code of Ethics for Nursing Students, 2015). The following statements are standards that comprise four core essential student nursing competencies. In addition to academic qualifications, the Liberty University School of Nursing considers the ability to consistently demonstrate these personal and professional attributes essential for entrance to, continuation in, and graduation from its nursing degree programs.

Physical Attributes

Nursing students must possess sufficient motor and sensory skills to provide safe nursing care and participate in the classroom and clinical experiences deemed necessary to meet both professional nursing practice standards and academic nursing program standards. Students must be able to:

- (Motor) Move throughout the classroom/clinical site and stand for periods of time to carry out patient care activities; be physically capable of performing patient care duties for up to 12 hours at a time, day or night; and lift 50 pounds.
- (Vision) See and accurately read print, computer screens and hand writing, including patient care orders and other documents, and demonstrate the ability differentiate colors.
- (Hearing) Hear and differentiate tonal variances or do so with the assistance of technology such as an amplified stethoscope.
- (Smell) Differentiate smells, such as smoke, bodily fluids and other odors.
- (Tactile) Accurately distinguish texture, temperature, pulsations, and moisture, with or without gloves.
- (Gross/Fine Motor) Manipulate equipment and tools necessary for providing safe nursing care such as medical equipment/devices, syringes/needles, stethoscope and computers.

Cognitive Attributes

Nursing students must exhibit sufficient knowledge and clarity of thinking to process the information and apply it appropriately to situations in classroom and clinical experiences. Students must be able to:

- Learn effectively through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group discussion, group assignments, individual study of materials, preparation and presentation of written and oral reports and use of computer based technology.
- Assimilate knowledge acquired through the modalities above and effectively apply that knowledge in clinical settings for a variety of individual, family or community needs and problems.
- Write and comprehend both spoken and written English.
- Speak English well enough to understand content presented in the program, adequately complete all oral assignments, and meet objectives of assigned clinical experiences.
- Accurately apply basic mathematical skills such as ratio/proportion concepts, use of conversion tables and calculations of drug doses and solutions.
- Organize thoughts to communicate effectively through written documents that are correct in style, grammar, spelling, mechanics, and American Psychological Association (APA) referencing.
- Gather data, develop a plan of action, establish priorities and monitor treatment plans.
- Utilize appropriate judgment and critical thinking behaviors such as properly incorporating previous knowledge from a wide range of subject areas into current patient care situations.

Interpersonal Attributes

Nursing students must possess ability to identify behaviors and attitudes in themselves and others, as well as to self-regulate their own behaviors and attitudes, to ensure professional practice and delivery of care. Students must be able to:

- Establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups.
- Respect individual differences such as cultural, ethnic, religious, gender, age, and sexual orientation.
- Relate effectively to other students, faculty, university/hospital staff and patients/families to fulfill ethical obligations of the nursing profession including altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice.
- Negotiate interpersonal conflicts effectively.
- Maintain sufficient mental/emotional stability to tolerate stressful situations, adapt to changes, respond to the unexpected, maintain objectivity and recognize personal strengths and limitations consistent with safe clinical practice so as to ensure no direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- Sustain safe nursing practice without demonstrated behavior of addiction to, abuse of or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that may impair behavior or judgment.
- Preserve confidentiality in regards to collaboration and patient care.
- Maintain professional relationships and expectations in all areas of student life, including academic, work and personal.

- Critically examine and self-edit social media content posted and hosted with the understanding that they impact both educational and professional opportunities while refraining from posting distasteful, offensive, immoral, unethical, or confidential content.
- Accept appropriate ownership of responsibility for their own actions and for the impact of these actions on others.
- Abide by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics (located at <http://www.nursingworld.org/codeofethics>).

Performance Attributes

Nursing students must be able to maintain clinical agency, university and nursing program performance standards while upholding and enhancing the reputation of the nursing programs and the university at large. Students must be able to:

- Continuously exhibit a functional state of alert, self-aware, and respectful behavior during classroom and clinical experiences.
- Perform multiple assignments/tasks concurrently and in a timely manner.
- Provide patient safety in various stressful situations and settings which may be physically and emotionally demanding.
- Arrange travel to and from academic and clinical sites, both local and distant.
- Tolerate the mental demands of differing shifts, body rhythm changes, increasingly difficult patient workloads and fatigue.
- Timely submit required medical and certification documents to online database.
- Critically think and concentrate with ability to respond quickly to changes in patient and unit conditions.
- Maintain integrity of the Liberty University nursing uniform, which is to be worn only in its entirety in approved clinical and academic settings.
- Comply with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards.

Overview of the RN-BSN Program

The RN-BSN curriculum consists of 120 credits of which 43 credits are general education requirements, 12 credits of science support courses, 4 credits of electives and 61 credits of nursing courses. Registered Nurses participating in the online nursing program receive 31 credits of advanced nursing credit once they are accepted into the program. These credits are given for a United States RN License in good standing. Additional transfer credit may also be applied to the non-nursing courses for previous coursework.

The nursing program is designed to provide individuals with a broad educational background, which builds upon Biblical experiences, liberal arts, behavioral and social sciences as well as nursing. The curriculum for the nursing program at Liberty University is directly derived from the stated purpose, philosophy, objectives, and organizing framework of the School of Nursing which is based on Patricia Benner's theory on the nursing process. It provides a framework for practice and a conceptual approach to the nursing curriculum.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Liberty University School of Nursing Undergraduate program is to prepare baccalaureate level nurses who are committed to Christian ethical standards and view nursing as a ministry of caring based on the Benner theoretical framework. The nursing curriculum is built upon a foundation from the arts, sciences, and the Bible; as such it focuses on the use of the nursing process to guide the acquisition of nursing knowledge, the development of strong clinical skills, and a commitment to a sound work ethic.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The primary goal of the Liberty University School of Nursing is to educate Christian students to minister to others through nursing. The Nursing Department supports the following propositions based on the Bible, nursing process, and Patricia Benner's Nursing Theory.

God, the infinite source of all things, has shown us truth through Christ in nature, history and above all in Scripture.

Persons are spiritual, rational, moral, social, and physical, created in the image of God. Persons are self-interpreted beings who become defined as they experience life, having the capacity to be in a situation in meaningful ways because of embodied intelligence.

Nursing is a multiform activity that provides a wide range of health care to society. It revolves around the need for assessment, goal development, selection of interactions, delivery of care, and evaluation of responses. Nursing is a healing art communicated through the ministry of caring. The practice of professional nursing is defined by the seven domains of nursing roles:

- 1 •The Helping Role
- 2 •The teaching-coaching function
- 3 •The diagnostic and patient monitoring function
- 4 •Effective management of rapidly changing situations
- 5 •Administering and monitoring therapeutic interventions and regimens
- 6 •Monitoring and ensuring the quality of health care practices
- 7 •Organizational and work-role competencies

Stress is the individual's perception physically, emotionally, or intellectually that smooth function has been disrupted. Harm, loss, or challenge is experienced and sorrow, interpretation, or new skill acquisition is required. Coping is a person's response to stress.

Caring is primary because it sets up what matters to a person, what counts as stressful, and what options are available for coping. Involvement and caring may lead one to experience loss and pain but they also make joy and fulfillment possible. Distance, control, and equanimity in the midst of suffering can trivialize distress.

Ministry is showing the love of Christ to others through service so that they may be drawn to Him.

Health is an individualized perception that can be interpreted differently by each individual. Since health is influenced by societal and cultural norms, it is important to consider both subjective and objective assessments of health.

Baccalaureate nursing education prepares the nurse to function in an active, participant role in the health care system. Nursing prepares the individual to be a leader, to be responsible, and to be accountable for his or her own actions. It also prepares the individual to think critically, problem solve, and make decisions for the provision of health care. Professional nursing prepares the individual to function both independently and in collaboration, coordination, and consultation with other disciplines.

The faculty of the School of Nursing believes that the baccalaureate degree is the minimum educational level of preparation for the professional nurse. The baccalaureate education prepares the graduate to enter professional nursing by providing a broad base in the humanities, social and natural sciences, and the knowledge, values and skills necessary for beginning practice in primary, secondary, and tertiary health care.

Courses in sociology, psychology, philosophy, and religion assist the individual to understand people, families, and groups within the community and to view matters in a broader context. Courses in natural science assist the individual in thinking critically. Courses in religion, theology,

evangelism, and Christian service enhance the individual's understanding of God - His creation and His will. They contribute to the development of a sense of caring as a ministry to others as well as fostering a commitment to the Christian life.

The nursing faculty believes that teaching and learning are interdependent lifelong processes. Learning is a progressive and cumulative experience producing beneficial changes in behavior. Learning takes place in three domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor or performance. Motivation and readiness are necessary in classroom environment if learning is to take place.

It is the faculty's responsibility to oversee and assess individual learning needs and adapt teaching methods as students progress from novice to advanced beginners.

As facilitators of student learning, faculty must demonstrate advanced clinical judgment pointing out important cues and assisting students to think critically about clinical situations.

Excerpts taken from:

Benner, Patricia. (1984). From Novice to Expert: Excellence and power in Clinical Nursing Practice. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.

Benner, Patricia. (1989). The Primacy of Caring: Stress and Coping in Health and Illness. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.

Expectations for Faculty, Staff, and Students

Virtues	Faculty/Staff/Students Expectations/Manifestations
<p>LOVE I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others (John 15:12-13)</p> <p>JOY I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstance (Psalm 100:1-2, James 1:2-3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the love of God by exhibiting compassion and a positive spirit in all interactions.
<p>PEACE I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself and others. (Hebrews 12:14, Romans 12:18, Romans 14:19)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster an environment of peace, walking with the Holy Spirit and upholding others in prayer.
<p>RESPECT I understand that each person I interact with is someone who is so precious in God's sight that he gave his only son to die for him/her. (1Thess. 4:11-12)</p> <p>INTEGRITY I do the right thing, even when no one is watching. (Proverbs 4:23-27, 1Chronicles 29:17a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate respect and a positive spirit when interacting with others in written and oral communication. • Support the mission and leadership of the school and the department by submitting to leadership decisions and following the chain of command. • Acting in an ethical and moral manner. • Respond to email communications within 24 hours. • Demonstrate integrity by holding each other accountable in loving and Christ centered ways as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining confidentiality, professionalism, and discretion - Choosing honesty inside and outside the classroom - Displaying promptness and responsibility in attendance for class and deadlines - Showing the self-discipline and work ethic essential for being prepared and organized for successfully completing assigned responsibilities.
<p>CONTENTMENT I am confident that God has good plans for me regardless of how my circumstances may look at the present time. (Phil 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively manage personal emotions and feelings and react reasonably to situations

<p>PATIENCE I take a long time to overheat, and I endure patiently the unavoidable pressures of life. (Ephesians 4:2)</p> <p>COMPASSION I am filled with the love of Christ and want others to know his love like me.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the belief that everyone can learn. • Provide opportunities and motivation for everyone to learn. • Demonstrate empathy and sensitivity to human needs as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discernment in clinical, classroom and office situations - Supporting colleagues - Recognizing the value we have in Christ, realizing that others may be dealing with individual life circumstances that are difficult to handle.
<p>FAITHFULNESS I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to that relationship. (Hebrews 11:6; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 5:7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate faithfulness to the Lord and the university and support the virtues of the department as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taking responsibilities seriously - Completing assigned tasks on time - Following through on commitments - Attending convocation, meetings and assigned tasks
<p>PERSEVERANCE I do not give up on people or projects (Hebrews 12:1b-2a)</p> <p>HOPE I can cope with the hardships of life and death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a commitment to others success. • Encourages others • Demonstrate a commitment to excellence.
<p>KINDNESS/GOODNESS/GENTLENESS I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others. (Col. 3:12; Ephesians 4:32)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a hospitable attitude in word and action. • Display positive tone and attitude in verbal and written communication.
<p>SELF-CONTROL I have power through Christ to control myself. (1 Cor. 6:12)</p> <p>HUMILITY I choose to esteem others above myself (Proverbs 15:33)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively manage personal emotions and feelings and react reasonably to situations. • Act confidently and maturely. • Accept constructive feedback in a respectful, appropriate manner. • Speak to others in an edifying way in an effort to lift them up.
<p>COURAGE</p>	

With knowledge that God is beside me, I am courageous when facing my challenges and fears. Psalm 31:24.

GENEROSITY

I sacrificially give to God through the gifting of my talents, time, and finances. Eph 1:3.

- I gladly bless others in the way God has blessed me.
- I rejoice when using my God-given talents.
- I face challenges knowing that God is by my side.
- I encourage others to overcome their fears.

RN-BSN Admission Information

- All policies and procedures as stated in the current Liberty University Catalog apply unless otherwise stated.
- Students who are admitted into the RN to BSN program must first meet certain prerequisites before they may begin registration for nursing classes. Admission requirements are listed below.
 - Liberty University Online Application
 - RN licensure in state of residence (copy of licensure document)
 - Active and Current
 - Official transcripts
 - Must be a graduate of a NLN Accredited nursing program leading to an associate degree or hospital diploma.
 - Ability to meet essential attributes requirements.

Upon acceptance into the program and United States RN licensure verification, 31 hours of advanced credit will automatically be applied toward students' Bachelor of Science in Nursing. See the RN to BSN [degree plan](#) for additional course information

CREDIT FOR RN LICENSURE

NURS 105 Medical Terminology	1 credit
NURS 221 Fundamentals of Nursing	4 credits
NURS 305 Pharmacology I	2 credits
NURS 306 Pharmacology II	2 credits
NURS 301 Strategies for Adult Health Care I	5 credits
NURS 302 Strategies for Adult Health Care II	5 credits
NURS 352 Caring for the Childbearing Family I	4 credits
NURS 353 Caring for the Childbearing Family II	4 credits
NURS 460 Advanced Strategies for Adult Health Care	4 credits
TOTAL 31 credits	

Transcript Evaluations and Transfer Policy

TRANSFER POLICY

- Students may transfer in general elective and investigative studies into the RN to BSN program.
- Upon verification of licensure and acceptance into the RN to BSN program students will receive 31 credit hours of advanced credit for their previous experience (course listed under credit for previous experience).
- Apart from the 31 credit hours of advanced credit, students must complete all nursing classes through Liberty University (unless an appeal is approved through the program chairperson). Students must also complete at least 30 credit hours through Liberty in order to graduate from the university.

TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION APPEAL

- Student must contact school regarding course(s) in question and obtain a course description and objectives from the semester the course was taken.
- Student must complete transfer evaluation inquiry form and submit to LUO transfer office for review.
- Transfer Evaluations will communicate with student regarding appeal.

REQUEST TO TAKE COURSES AT ANOTHER INSTITUTION

- Fax, mail, or email course description and/or syllabus with the name of the regionally accredited school, along with the [RTIAC form](#) (request to take courses at another institution) to the [LUO transfer office](#).
- Transfer Evaluations will contact student with decision.

Background Check and Licensure Verification

In an effort to continue strengthening the RN-BSN Program, a background check and RN Licensure verification has been incorporated in the foundation course, Advanced Nursing Communication. Castle Branch, Inc (Certified Background) is the company providing the service to students to complete this requirement. A [link](#) will be provided within this course along with steps for setting up an account with Certified Background and requesting the background check. There will be two packages to choose from:

- US Criminal Background Check (which includes Professional RN License Verification) \$20.80 additional fees may apply

Completion of the background check and RN Licensure verification is required prior to continuing in additional nursing courses.

In the event that a background check reveals flagged information, the student will be contacted for further details, and the School of Nursing will decide whether the student may continue forth in the RN-BSN Program or be dismissed as a result of the flagged information. Students are encouraged to contact their RN-BSN Advisor with any questions.

Curriculum Objectives

Upon completion of the Liberty University RN-BSN program, the graduates will:

- View Nursing as a ministry of demonstrating Christ's love to hurting people of all religions, creeds and cultures.
- Provide and coordinate nursing care for individuals, families, and groups within the community.

- Utilize critical thinking/problem solving skills in determining nursing interventions and applying therapeutic skills.
- Demonstrate leadership skills in collaboration with clients, other professionals, and groups within the community for the purpose of promoting, maintaining and restoring health.
- Apply a personal and professional Christian value system, based on Biblical principles, to ethical issues related to the practice of professional nursing.
- Value the need for ongoing personal and professional development through both formal and informal learning experiences.
- Foster professional level competencies in writing, oral communication and computer literacy

MAJOR CURRICULAR CONCEPTS

Nursing as a Ministry	Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills	Leadership Skills
Servant's Heart Patient Centered Care	Nursing Process Evidence-Based Practice Multisystem Integration Safety Informatics	Teamwork and Collaboration Quality Improvement Emotional Intelligence

RN-BSN Course Information

PROGRESSION, RETENTION, DISMISSAL

Equally important to the admissions requirements into the nursing program are those criteria which govern maintenance of the student's status once admission is achieved. These criteria are listed below.

- Minimum grade of "C" in **all nursing courses**. If a student fails a nursing course, they must repeat the course while enrolled in the program. The second failure of a nursing course, a grade less than a "C", will result in dismissal from the nursing program.
- Satisfactory citizenship and behavior must be maintained. Students may be suspended from the university for unethical or inappropriate behavior. Suspensions are subject to faculty review, and can result in dismissal from the RN-BSN program.
- Students are encouraged to follow course sequence.

SEQUENCE OF NURSING COURSES

NURS 220 Advanced Communication

NURS 220 is the foundation course for the RN-BSN program and is the required first nursing course. Students will learn how to write at the professional level, utilizing American Psychological Association (APA) format. Success in subsequent nursing classes is fostered by completing this course first.

NURS 210 Health Assessment

NURS 215 Pathophysiology

NURS 225 Research in Nursing

Note: Completion of all Science classes is strongly suggested prior to taking NURS 210 & NURS 215.

NURS 325 Nursing Concepts

NURS 440 Strategies for Community Health Care

NURS 445 Population Health

NURS 489 Leadership in Nursing

NURS 491 Nursing Management

It is suggested that NURS 440, 445, 489 and 491 be taken after the research course. Students should keep in mind that NURS 440 is a five credit class and it is highly recommended to take this course alone.

NURS 492 Advanced Concepts of Nursing Practice

NURS 492 is the capstone course for the RN-BSN and must be the last nursing course in a student's plan of study. All other nursing courses must be completed prior to taking NURS 492. Students will be expected to integrate knowledge from previous nursing classes in this course. In addition to the online format, NURS 492 is offered in an intensive format as student interest allows.

OPTIONAL INTENSIVES

In addition to the on-line format, NURS 210, NURS 325, and NURS 492 will be offered in an intensive format as student interest allows.

ELECTIVE COURSES

NURS 316 Global Health Nursing Field Experience is a 3 credit hour nursing elective being offered to RN-BSN students and current junior and senior level residential nursing students who have met all of the freshman and sophomore required courses. Students interested in this elective course must be interviewed and receive approval for registration by the teaching faculty. Students interested in this course should contact BSNAdvisor@liberty.edu.

NURSING INTENSIVES

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the optional nursing intensives offered for NURS 210 Health Assessment (3 cr hr), NURS 325 Nursing Concepts (1 cr hr) and NURS 492 Advanced Concepts of Nursing Practice (3 cr hr). All courses include pre and post work in the online format with the on campus intensive week coinciding to provide the fullest benefit to students. NURS 210 and NURS 325 courses may be taken separately but have been developed with the intent to be taken concurrently. The on-campus week will coincide with the end of the semester and Liberty University School of Nursing's graduation ceremony. For May Commencement, NURS 492 Intensive week will take place the week following graduation exercises.

REQUIRED SCIENCE COURSES

The required science courses, BIOL 213, 214, 215 and 216 (Anatomy and Physiology I & II) are not offered online or in a blended format through Liberty University. BIOL 213, 214, 215, 216 are offered as residential courses through the University. If a student does not transfer these courses into Liberty, they may take these courses at a local or online community college or university after completing the [RTTAC Form](#) and receiving approval from the Transfer office.

We do however offer BIOL 204 and CHEM 108 online. Completion of these courses with a grade of C or higher is required for the RN-BSN program.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURS 210 Health Assessment 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure.

This course focuses on the development of a body of systems approach to health assessment of individuals emphasizing normal growth and developmental responses across the lifespan. Content includes an introduction to the knowledge and skills of health assessment through a variety of methodologies. This course requires several assessment video assignments including the final head to toe didactic on a volunteer patient of 18 years or older. It is important to obtain the proper tools and supplies required to complete the video assessment assignments. If a student does not have this equipment or have access to use this equipment, the student will need to purchase the tools. Obtaining these tools is to the student's discretion, however, Liberty University School of Nursing does offer a [kit](#) for this course, with or without the diagnostic set. A recording device is also required.

NURS 215 Sciences in Nursing (Pathophysiology) 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

The focus of this course is on the physiological changes resulting from imbalances in the man-environment interaction throughout the lifespan. The emphasis is on application of general concepts of adaptation and homeostasis to each of the body's systems and on the relationship

of these concepts to the practice of clinical nursing. The course provides the student with scientific knowledge base applicable to more advanced clinical practice of nursing.

NURS 220 Advanced Nursing Communication 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure

It is essential that professional nurses have communication skills that are effective in promoting optimal interaction with others in a variety of situations. This course focuses on developing expert communications skills when communicating with other health care providers and patients and when communicating professional information through writing and speaking. As the foundation course for the RN-BSN Program, a background check and RN Licensure verification has been incorporated. Completion of this task is required prior to continuing in additional nursing courses.

NURS 225 Research in Nursing 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

This course provides an overview of the nursing process including methodology, design and interpretation of findings. It focuses on the acquiring the beginning knowledge and skills essential for critical evaluation of research reports as well as guidance in the production of a poster presentation which incorporates evidence based knowledge related to a specific clinical problem.

NURS 316 Global Health Nursing Field Experience 3 hours

Prerequisite: The student must be admitted into the nursing program and have completed all the required basic level courses for their freshman and sophomore years and be currently enrolled in junior or senior level courses. For those students that already have their nursing license, they may complete this course at any point in their program.

This course focuses on teaching students how to show God's love by ministering to His people internationally through helping meet their physical and spiritual needs with cultural competence. This course is specifically for those students that are currently planning a medical overseas trip this semester or directly following the semester. Emphasis is placed on examining their personal values and beliefs as they relate to health practices in a variety of cultural settings through a Biblical worldview. It provides the opportunity to become better acquainted with their Cultural Intelligence as related to the four aspects of drive, knowledge, strategy and actions.

An interview and approval for registration of this course by the teaching faculty is required. Students interested in this course should contact BSNAdvisor@liberty.edu .

NURS 325 Nursing Concepts 1 hour

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

This course is designed to assist the registered nurse student through the transition between basic nursing preparation and a more advanced level of nursing practice. Focus is on concepts and issues related to the professional nurse, the nature and scope of professional nursing, and selected theoretical models for nursing practice.

NURS 440 Strategies for Community Health Care 5 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

This course focuses on the application of the nursing process to a population or community group. Emphasis is placed on community assessment process and the development of nursing strategies to assist multi-problem families, considering health on a continuum throughout the life span. Family systems' theory, theories of adaptation and educational needs of various populations will be addressed. The clinical focus is on the development of a broader perspective of the nurse's role in a variety of clinical and environmental settings. In addition, the nurse's role on the community health team and an understanding of health care needs of different cultural groups will be studied.

This course has a clinical component of 16 hours in order to better meet the needs of our students and the requirements of state boards of nursing and accrediting bodies. This clinical component is an observational experience and can be completed at one or multiple sites within your community, and can be completed at different times in order to be flexible with your schedule. More details will be provided by your instructor once the course begins. Completion of the clinical component is required to pass the class.

NURS 445 Population Health 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

This seminar course provides an overview of genetics, genomics, geriatrics, end-of-life care, and cultural sensitivity from a Christian worldview. Through the use of evidence-based practice guidelines, the student will utilize knowledge and skills attained throughout his or her nursing education and apply it to a variety of educational activities. These include Senior Mentor project, interaction with a community specialist panel, evidence-based research, self-reflection, therapeutic communication and critical thinking skills.

NURS 489 Leadership/Management in Nursing 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

Benner's work on the novice to expert continuum and the seven domains of nursing will be explored, and students will apply concepts to their own practices, past, present, and future. The leadership roles of the nurse as an individual and a group member while utilizing the Christian principles such as godly character, servant attitude, honesty and commitment will be emphasized. While caring for groups of patients and individuals, students will explore a variety of content areas including systems theory, professional practice models, care delivery models, nurse sensitive quality indicators, and foundational documents that drive the nursing profession that are relevant to the support of nursing care in the practice setting, the influence of regulatory agencies on the delivery of care, and health policies that affect health care in general. Students are expected to synthesize previously learned knowledge in complex nursing situations and to expand their abilities to use the problem-solving and decision-making processes.

NURS 491 Nursing Management 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and NURS 220

This seminar course provides an overview of organizational theory, management theory, and change theory. The course examines nursing staffing patterns, patient care technology, information management, and communication between healthcare providers. Healthcare policies, including financial and regulatory influences are also reviewed. The course uses several techniques such as evidence based research, self-reflection, therapeutic communication, and critical thinking skills to gain understanding in nursing management.

NURS 492 Advanced Concepts in Nursing Practice 3 hours

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSN program with a maintained RN Licensure and completion of all other NURS courses.

This is the capstone course for the RN-BSN program. The student engages in academic endeavors that reflect application, synthesis and evaluation of concepts and nursing issues studied throughout the completion program. Application of educational experience to professional growth and contribution to the nursing profession is emphasized.

Grading and Important Policies

GRADING

The RN to BSN student standing in each course will be indicated by the following letter grades:

A 900 – 1010
B 800-899
C 700 - 799
D 600 - 699
F 0 - 599

Grades must be at least 700 points or above to pass

Policies

Medical Incomplete Course Progression Policy

Students requesting a medical incomplete will have a nursing hold placed on their account which would require students to contact the RN-BSN advisor to schedule additional courses until all prior coursework has been completed for classes that the student received a medical incomplete. Once coursework has been completed for courses in which a medical incomplete was granted, the nursing hold will be removed.

COURSE REPEAT POLICY

The course repeat policy allows students to repeat one nursing course while enrolled in the program. If a student fails a nursing course, they must repeat the course while enrolled in the program. The second failure of a nursing course, a grade less than a "C", will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

GRADE APPEAL

Students who wish to appeal a final grade must first seek to resolve the situation with their professor. If the student wishes to appeal further they must follow the [grade appeal process](#) and submit the [grade appeal form](#) which will be reviewed by the Online Chair. Grade appeals must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the end of the term.

NURSING DISMISSAL APPEAL

If you have been dismissed from the nursing program, you may [appeal](#) your dismissal. To do this, please contact bsnadvisor@liberty.edu or click the link above for the nursing dismissal appeal form. Once you have received and completed it, please click "Submit" when you are finished. You will need to submit your appeal within 4 weeks from the date your official dismissal letter was mailed to you. The School of Nursing will review and respond to your appeal within 4 weeks of your appeal submittal. If your appeal is approved, you will not be able to register for any nursing courses for a 6-month waiting period beginning the date that your appeal was submitted. Please keep in mind that if your appeal is approved and you fail another nursing course, you will be dismissed from the RN-BSN program for 5 years.

Here is the information you will need to provide on the appeal form:

Student Information:

- Student Name
- Student ID#
- Course Number & Section
- Course Instructor
- Course Semester
- Course Grade
- GPA

Questions:

- Why did you fail from your nursing course or courses?
- What have you learned about this experience?
- If you are accepted back into the program, what is your plan to keep from failing again?

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Dishonesty of any type is NOT tolerated by the School of Nursing. Students who lie or cheat in any manner may be subject to permanent dismissal from the nursing program.

Definition: During examinations, academic dishonesty shall include referring to information not specifically condoned by the instructor. It shall further include receiving information from a fellow student, as well as stealing, buying, selling or transmitting a copy of any examination. In the case of papers, projects, or any assignment prepared outside class, academic dishonesty shall include plagiarism. Plagiarism shall include the following:

- Omitting quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from any printed source.
- Paraphrasing a specific passage from a specific source without properly referencing the source.
- Replicating and/or sharing another student's work or parts thereof, submitting as a student original.
- Self-plagiarism by using previous assignments or papers.

Falsifying documents is the unauthorized signing of another person's name to official forms or documents or the unauthorized modification, copying, or production of a University document. The penalty for any other form of in-class dishonesty, other than given above, will result in failure for the specific activity (quiz, class assignment, etc.). Any student who shall knowingly assist in the form of dishonesty mentioned above shall be considered as equally responsible as the student who accepts such assistance.

Reporting Procedures: In any instance of academic dishonesty, the instructor shall complete the appropriate LUO Incident Report, notify the program chair providing the written evidence of the infraction and within one calendar week, notify the student. The penalty for each infraction may include dismissal from the class for the remainder of the semester and a grade of "F" for the course.

Appeal Procedure: When a student has been accused of academic dishonesty, which necessitates disciplinary action, and the student feels he/she is being unjustly accused or is being treated unfairly, he/she may wish to appeal the decision of the faculty member. Please refer to the Liberty University Online Academic Policy handbook for a complete outline of the appeal procedure.

DROP POLICY

Students may drop any course for a full refund before the course start date. Students may drop via ASIST or by sending an email, including student ID number, the name of the course/section and a statement regarding a desire to drop the course to the academic advisor.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Before withdrawing, please read the [withdrawal policy](#) starting on page 4. To begin the withdrawal process, the student must first contact the [RN-BSN Academic Advisor](#) and request the withdrawal. The email should include the following:

- Student name and LU ID
- Course number from which student requests to be withdrawn.
- Reason for request.

Resources

COMPUTER NEEDS

Each student accepted into the RN to BSN program must have basic computer competencies. Students will be asked to complete assignments using various software applications. In order to successfully complete assignments students must have access to a computer that has the capacity to:

- Read and write in Microsoft Word. (Microsoft Office 365 is available through Liberty University.)
- PowerPoint
- Access online sites including the Liberty sites.
- Daily send and receive email via Liberty webmail.

It is recommended that RN to BSN students also have the following programs installed with Microsoft Word:

- Excel
- Access
- Adobe Creative Cloud, including Adobe Spark, is also available to students as part of their tuition.

Upon admission each student is assigned a computer account and an email address on Liberty University's network computer system. Correspondence from the campus, including the School of Nursing faculty and staff will be delivered via the Liberty Webmail address.

WEBMAIL/ASIST INSTRUCTIONS

Students are required to check their Liberty webmail at minimum, every 48 hours.

How do I create my username and password?

- Log into [myLU Sign In](#)
- Click on the 'Account Login' option, followed by 'Claim Account'
- You will need to enter your student ID# which has been provided for you. Once your username and password has been created, close the window

How do I change my password?

- Log into [myLU Sign In](#)
- Click on 'Forgot password'
- Follow the instructions to change your password

How do I logon to my ASIST account?

- Log into [myLU Sign In](#)
- Click on "ASIST"

How do I logon to my webmail account?

- Log into [myLU Sign In](#)
- Click on "Webmail"
- Enter your username and password in the Microsoft Outlook page

BLACKBOARD

[Blackboard](#) is the online learning environment used to support the School of Nursing as well as most other Liberty University academic departments. Blackboard is user friendly and provides a direct link between the student and the professor. Each course in the RN-BSN completion program includes Blackboard support.

REQUIRED WRITING RESOURCES

American Psychological Association. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (Current ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Registration and Payment

Students who are ready to register for courses may contact the [Nursing Academic Advisor](#) or call 855-LUNURSE. However, students are also able to register themselves via ASIST.

TUITION AND FEES

- Undergraduate degrees \$390/credit hour for full time (at least 12 hours)
- Undergraduate degrees \$455/credit hour for part time
- Graduation fee \$100
- Course materials such as books are purchased separately through [MBS Direct](#).

LATE FINANCIAL CHECK-IN FEE

Students will be charged a late financial check-in fee if check-in is not completed by the financial check-in deadline. Students who have not completed check-in by this date will be dropped from courses (excluding military students who pay by Tuition Assistance).

BROKEN ENROLLMENT FEE

If a student does not take a course within an academic year, he or she will break enrollment by the start of the next academic year. The student must submit a new application to Liberty Online. There will be a re-application fee of \$50 for all students who have broken enrollment. This fee will apply to students who allow more than one year to elapse from their original course end date before they begin a new course.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Students may pay for their courses in one of four ways:

- Out of pocket – credit card, check, money order (payment plans are available)
- [Employer Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Military Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)

Once the method of payment has been selected and students have registered for courses then [Financial Check-In](#) must be completed.