Undergraduate Nursing: BSN Pre-Licensure



"I'm hoping to be an ER Nurse, and Ottawa has really helped me be confident in my clinical and classroom skills... The small class sizes, being able to know your instructors really well, and just the connections they have with clinical sites across Kansas and Missouri."
– Bella A.
Ottawa Alumni

At Ottawa University

The Pre-licensure Nursing Program is designed for individuals seeking to become a registered nurse (RN). Upon completion on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

All pre-requisite courses are offered at the Ottawa, KS campus (OUKS). OUKS students can complete the pre-requisites in the traditional, residential campus setting and then transition to the Kansas City campus.

Education and Qualifications

The Pre-licensure Nursing Program is designed for individuals seeking to become a registered nurse (RN). Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

Qualified students must hold US citizenship, have either a GED (general equivalency diploma) or a high school diploma, and have completed the program prerequisite course credits, with a minimum 2.5 Grade Point Average (GPA).

Additional requirements for application:

- Official transcripts for all previous coursework (60 hours of credit)
- Completion of the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with a minimum proficient score
- Successful completion of a criminal background check.
- Negative 12-panel Drug Screen
- Two professional or academic letters of recommendation.
- Career Statement of professional experience and goals in nursing.
- Evidence of current immunizations (Completed Health Status Form)
- OU Nursing Program Accountability Form

Prerequisite Courses (60 credit hours)

- English / Composition Writing
- Speech / Oral Communication
- College or Intermediate Algebra*
- Biology
- Intro to Psychology
- Human Growth & Development
- Statistics for Healthcare
- Anatomy & Physiology with Lab (5 credit hours or more)
  - OR Anatomy with Lab & Physiology with Lab
  - OR Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab AND Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- General Electives to Total 60 hours

may be waived if student has completed statistics with a grade of C or better and approval of nursing department

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Major Courses

NRS 30001 - Introduction to Professional Nursing (3)

This course introduces the pre-licensure student to the art and science of professional nursing that integrates knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences (four breadth areas). Competencies for entry-level practice are explored. Historical perspectives of nursing are examined and correlated with current trends in practice. Fundamental professional communication, including writing skills, is further refined. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program.

NRS 32004 - Introduction Pharmacology (2)

This course is designed to develop foundational theoretical knowledge of psychotherapeutics for nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on the basic principles of pharmacology, drug therapy across the lifespan, dosage calculation, and safe medication administration. Nursing implications relative to the utilization of drug therapy are examined. Pharmacology as it relates to the various body systems is introduced. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30000 Introduction to Professional Nursing and NRS 32006 Pathophysiology with a grade of C or better.

NRS 32006 - Human Pathophysiology (3)

Examines the basic pathophysiology of selected disease processes that may occur across the lifespan. Major pathophysiological concepts are explored using a body systems approach while emphasizing the application of this knowledge to the assessment, planning, and interventions for holistic, person-centered care. Prerequisites: BIO 20433 Human Anatomy and Lab, BIO 30433 Human Physiology and Lab, and BIO 30243 Microbiology and Lab.

NRS 32007 - Health Assessment in Nursing Practice (3)

This course introduces the pre-licensure nursing student to the foundational skills required to perform a comprehensive physical health assessment across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on the critical thinking skills required for obtaining an accurate collection and analysis of patient health information, as well as the development of fundamental physical assessment techniques as a basis for clinical judgment. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program and NRS 32006 Human Pathophysiology.

NRS 32010 - Pharmacology (3)

This course is designed to develop theoretical knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics for nursing practice, expanding on knowledge gained in Introduction to Pharmacology. Emphasis is placed on the major classes of clinically important medications and their safe administration. For each therapeutic drug classification, the basic mechanism of drug actions, side effects, routes of administration, and common indications will be reviewed. Nursing implications relative to the utilization of drug therapy are examined. Prerequisites: NRS 32004 Introduction to Pharmacology

NRS 33000 - Fundamentals I with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course introduces students to basic nursing concepts and skills, including the nursing process as a basis for developing clinical judgment. The four spheres of care - promotion of health and well-being/disease prevention; chronic disease care; regenerative or restorative care; and hospice/palliative/supportive care are introduced. Theoretical knowledge is applied to skills laboratories and clinical experiences. Essential ethical, legal, and professional standards pertaining to quality, safety, asepsis, infection control, and documentation are emphasized throughout. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program and NRSG 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing.

NRS 33001 - Fundamentals II with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course is a continuation of Fundamentals I to build upon foundational nursing skills and concepts previously introduced. Students will apply evidence-based practice in the laboratory, simulation, and clinical care situations. There is an integration of lab and diagnostics tests as well as assessment skills to underpin care planning, intervention, and evaluation. The four spheres of care are expanded with a focus on health and well-being promotion/ disease prevention as well as an emphasis on the teaching/learning process in person-centered care. Legal and ethical aspects of safe, quality care is emphasized in all situations including medication administration, infection control, and documentation. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment, and NRS 33000 Fundamentals I w/Lab & Clinical.

NRS 34000 - Adult Health I with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course applies the nursing process in providing person-centered care of adult and older adult patients. There is continued application of the four spheres of care with a focus on health promotion and well-being/disease prevention; chronic disease care; and regenerative or restorative care. Common health conditions are addressed with integration of pertinent lab and diagnostics testing to assist in safe, quality care. Emphasis is placed on the progressive development and application of clinical knowledge, clinical judgment, skills, and professional values within a legal/ethical framework. Evidence-based practice is emphasized during didactic as well as laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning experiences. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment in Nursing Practice, and NRS 33001 Fundamentals II w/Lab and Clinical.

NRS 34100 - Health Promotion/Population Health (4)

The concepts of community and public health management, health promotion, and disease prevention including the social determinants of health across the lifespan are explored. Health disparities of vulnerable population groups will be analyzed through epidemiologic approaches. Significance is placed on the nurse's role as it pertains to disaster or public health emergencies. Health agencies, policy, global health issues, and mass casualty disasters are included. Levels of prevention, risk factors, and major determinants of health are investigated. Skills will be acquired in the areas of community assessment, program planning, implementation, and evaluation of population-based interventions. Laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning experiences are included. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment in Nursing Practice, and NRS 33001 Fundamentals II w/Lab and Clinical.

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Major Courses (continued)

NRS 44000 - Adult Health Nursing II with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course is a continuation of Adult Health Nursing I and builds upon acquired knowledge of the adult and older adult's select developmental, acute, or chronic health concerns. Expanding the utilization of the nursing process with increasingly complex health care problems of this population group will be emphasized. The learner will continue to cultivate professional role development in critical thinking, clinical judgment, communication, and evidence-based interventions through experiential learning in laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning experiences. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program and NRS 34000 Adult Health I w/Lab & Clinical.

NRS 44001 - Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing with Lab and Clinical (4)

In this course, students apply theories and best evidence to provide compassionate, person-centered care across the lifespan among diverse populations experiencing psychiatric/mental health issues. Professional standards, ethical and legal parameters, safety, and quality outcome measures are priorities. There is an emphasis on individualized care that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of family, community, and the socio-cultural environment. Psychopharmacology, and supervised learning experiences in the laboratory and at cooperating clinical agencies are a required part of this course. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment and NRS 44000 Adult Health II w/Lab & Clinical

NRS 46002 - Evidence Based Nursing Practice in a Global Context (3)

The course serves as an introduction to the concepts of nursing research methods and theoretical principles. It focuses on providing students with the knowledge base to define and critically analyze and evaluate clinical research problems and develop techniques to implement the evidence in leadership or professional practice roles practically. Students reflect on experience, knowledge, and skills in the four breadth areas and apply learning as they examine current issues and concerns in global contexts. Prerequisite: PSY 36000 Statistics for Social Sciences.

NRS 44002 - Maternal/Newborn Nursing with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course provides a holistic approach to the biological, psychological, and sociological concepts of nursing care involving reproductive, maternal, and newborn health. Female reproductive anatomy and physiology are reviewed, with emphasis on the physiologic and pathophysiologic processes associated with pregnancy, labor, and delivery. Effective strategies utilizing critical thinking and clinical judgment in the application of risk assessment and interventions of professional nursing practice for childbearing women, their newborns, and their families will be explored. Legal and ethical issues and culturally sensitive care pertaining to the childbearing family will be evaluated. This course will provide opportunities for varied clinical experiential learning in women's healthcare settings. Simulated laboratory experiences emphasize newborn and perinatal nursing care. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment in Nursing Practice, and NRS 44000 Adult Health II w/Lab & Clinical.

NRS 44003 - Pediatric Nursing with Lab and Clinical (4)

This course focuses on the application of the nursing process in person-centered care of pediatric and adolescent patients. Emphasis is placed on normal growth and development, accident/injury prevention, quality improvement, safety, and care of acute and chronic pediatric disorders. Using the nursing process as a guide, the learner will integrate evidence-based knowledge and developmentally appropriate care in a family-centric approach to achieve positive healthcare outcomes in pediatric patients. Key concepts to be explored include developmentally appropriate anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, social determinants of health, and legal and ethical considerations unique to pediatrics, and their role in health assessment, health promotion, and disease prevention, and culturally and family sensitive care across the pediatric healthcare continuum of care. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment in Nursing Practice, and NRS 44000 Adult Health II w/Lab & Clinical.

NRS 44100 - Adult Health Nursing III with Lab and Clinical (4)

In the last of a 3-part course series, students will have an opportunity to sharpen their clinical judgment and prioritization of care abilities, as well as their procedural skills while working with adult patients who have unstable, emergent, and/or critical illnesses. There is integration of the nursing process, technological and scientific knowledge, and time management with logic and critical thinking to potentiate optimal health outcomes for diverse adult patient populations. Interprofessional partnerships skills are further developed to establish mutual healthcare goals for diverse adults. Specific legal, ethical, and policy issues are explored. Active learning strategies in didactic as well as simulated and clinical settings are employed. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NRS 32007 Health Assessment in Nursing Practice, and NRS 44000 Adult Health II w/Lab & Clinical

NRS 46001 - Leadership and Management in Nursing Practice (3)

Students apply principles of leadership and management theories for effective evidence-based practice. Specific ethical and legal issues are addressed in addition to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in practice. Systems-based practice, interprofessional partnerships, quality and safety principles, information, and healthcare technologies, as well as financial and regulatory management, are explored. Today's complex health care setting is the context for various approaches to change management as a nurse leader. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Pre-licensure BSN Program, NRS 30001 Introduction to Professional Nursing and NRS 46003 Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice.

NRS 49100 - Capstone with Lab and Clinical (4)

The Capstone course is the final nursing clinical immersion experience for the prelicensure nursing student which ensures readiness to enter practice and transition to the professional nurse practice role. This culminating nursing course provides (120) hours in a clinical setting with an assigned nurse preceptor under the supervision of the clinical faculty. Opportunities are provided for synthesis, integration, and application of knowledge and skill acquired in previous coursework and clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on demonstration of all BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes throughout the course including didactic, lab, and clinical experiences. Prerequisite: Completion of all Prelicensure BSN courses, prior approval by Academic Advisor, Clinical Coordinator, and Director of Nursing Program.

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