

NURSING MAJOR (B.S.N.)

<https://www.unh.edu/program/bachelor-science/nursing>

Description

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Program Overview

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program prepares students for professional practice as Registered Nurses who deliver safe, evidence-based, and relationship-centered care across diverse settings. Faculty serve as mentors and partners in learning, fostering a supportive, scholarly environment where students develop clinical judgment, professional identity, and reflective practice. The program emphasizes cultural humility and high standards of quality and safety to prepare graduates for the complexities of modern healthcare.

Curriculum & Learning Experience

Grounded in the biological and social sciences and the humanities, the curriculum develops strong critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and person-centered communication skills. Students progress through a carefully sequenced plan of study aligned with the AACN Essentials, including population health, health equity, leadership, informatics, and interprofessional collaboration. Throughout the program, students gain experience with electronic health records, clinical decision support tools, and emerging digital health technologies to enhance care delivery and outcomes.

Clinical Education, Simulation, and Partnerships

Clinical learning is enhanced through a state-of-the-art simulation center using high-fidelity scenarios, skills practice, and guided debriefing to strengthen clinical judgment, communication, and confidence. Simulation is integrated across the curriculum to support equitable, evidence-based care.

Students complete diverse clinical placements in acute care, community and public health, primary care, mental health, and long-term care settings. Partnerships with regional health systems and community organizations provide authentic experiences that emphasize collaboration, professionalism, and advocacy.

Senior Capstone: Transition to Practice

In the senior year, students complete a precepted transition-to-practice capstone. Working with an experienced Registered Nurse, students integrate program competencies, manage care priorities, and refine leadership, communication, and time-management skills to support a confident transition into entry-level practice.

Professional Readiness & Outcomes

Graduates are prepared to deliver high-quality, person-centered care; collaborate with interprofessional teams; promote population health; and use data and technology to improve outcomes. Upon completion of program requirements, graduates are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN® licensure examination (in accordance with state regulations) and are well prepared for professional practice or graduate study.

Honors in Major (Optional)

Eligible students may pursue Honors in Major, offering opportunities for advanced scholarship, mentorship, leadership development, and engagement in evidence-based or quality improvement projects. (See the Requirements tab for details.)

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: No

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

Candidates for the nursing degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying major requirements.

- Discovery courses that are required for the major require a minimum grade of C or better in the major.
- Most of the prerequisite courses also meet Discovery requirements.
- Major courses require a minimum grade of C or better.
- A cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 must be maintained throughout the program.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
Two Discovery/Elective/Writing Intensive Courses		8
Seven Discovery/Elective Courses		28
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing ¹	4
BMS 501	Microbes in Human Disease ¹	4
BMS 507	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	4
BMS 508	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ¹	4
HDFS 525	Human Development ¹	4
HHS 401	College of Health and Human Services Seminar	1
HMP 540	Statistics for Health and Human Service Professionals ¹	4
or PSYC 402	Statistics in Psychology	
or SOC 402	Statistics	
or MATH 439	Statistical Discovery for Everyone	
PSYC 401	Introduction to Psychology ¹	4
NURS 530	Professional Nursing Concepts and Theories	4
NURS 531	Evidence Based Innovations in Nursing	4
NURS 532	Integrative Pathopharmacology in Nursing	4
NURS 534	Fundamentals of Nursing Practice ²	6
NURS 630	Nursing Care of Adults with Chronic Conditions ²	6
NURS 631	Nursing Care of Adults with Acute Conditions ²	6
NURS 632	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing ²	6
NURS 633	Nursing Care in Reproductive and Sexual Health ²	6
NURS 730	Integrated Pediatric and Family Nursing ²	6
NURS 732W	Nursing Leadership within Healthcare Systems	4
NURS 733	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice ²	8
NURS 734	Perspectives in Population Health Nursing ²	6
Total Credits		131

¹ Discovery courses that are required for the major require a grade of C or better in the major.

² Clinical hours are completed through the following required courses: NURS 534, NURS 630, NURS 631, NURS 632, NURS 633, NURS 730, NURS 733, and NURS 734.

Honors-in-Major Program

The Honors-in-Major Program is offered to interested junior nursing students who achieve a minimum grade-point average of 3.75 in NURS courses and cumulative GPA of 3.4 at the end of the sophomore year in nursing and/or junior nursing students who are members of the University Honors Program. A total of 18 credits taken at the honors level is required for the Honors-in-Major Program. Orientation to the Honors-in-Major Program is held at the beginning of the junior nursing year. Students must successfully complete with a grade of B or better 8 additional credits of honors coursework drawn from the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses from the following:		
NURS 630	Nursing Care of Adults with Chronic Conditions	6
NURS 631	Nursing Care of Adults with Acute Conditions	6
NURS 732W	Nursing Leadership within Healthcare Systems	4
NURS 734	Perspectives in Population Health Nursing	6

Honors-in-major students must also successfully complete with a grade of B or better:

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 648W	Nursing Honors Seminar I	1-4
NURS 748W	Nursing Honors Thesis I	1
NURS 749W	Nursing Honors Thesis II	4

These self-directed learning experiences, related to the student's interests, are designed to help students acquire advanced knowledge and skills to undertake inquiry or scholarly projects. Students must submit a project description to a faculty mentor at the beginning of the senior year. Students have the option to complete a student research project, which must undergo University IRB proposal approval, or a student Quality Improvement project, which must undergo School of Nursing Quality Improvement Committee proposal review. All students completing Honors-in-Major will complete a written thesis or capstone to be submitted for inclusion in the UNH Scholars' Repository and present at the annual UNH Undergraduate Research Conference.

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

4-Year BSN - Group A Students

First Year

Fall		Credits
BMS 507	Human Anatomy and Physiology I (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing (Discovery WS, WI)	4
HHS 401	College of Health and Human Services Seminar	1
HDFS 525	Human Development (Discovery SS)	4
NURS 530	Professional Nursing Concepts and Theories	4
Credits		17

Spring

BMS 508	Human Anatomy and Physiology II (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
PSYC 401	Introduction to Psychology (Discovery SS)	4
PSYC 402	Statistics in Psychology (Discovery QR)	4
or SOC 402	or Statistics	
or MATH 439	or Statistical Discovery for Everyone	
or HMP 540	or Statistics for Health and Human Service Professionals	
NURS 531	Evidence Based Innovations in Nursing	4
Credits		16

Second Year

Fall

BMS 501	Microbes in Human Disease (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
NURS 532	Integrative Pathopharmacology in Nursing	4
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry/Writing Intensive		4
Credits		16

Spring

NURS 534	Fundamentals of Nursing Practice	6
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry/Writing Intensive		4
Credits		18

Third Year

Fall

NURS 631	Nursing Care of Adults with Acute Conditions	6
NURS 632	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16

Spring

NURS 630	Nursing Care of Adults with Chronic Conditions	6
NURS 633	Nursing Care in Reproductive and Sexual Health	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16

Fourth Year

Fall

NURS 730	Integrated Pediatric and Family Nursing	6
NURS 734	Perspectives in Population Health Nursing	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16

Spring

NURS 732W	Nursing Leadership within Healthcare Systems	4
NURS 733	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice	8
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		131

4-Year BSN - Group B Students

First Year		
Fall		
BMS 507	Human Anatomy and Physiology I (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
PSYC 401	Introduction to Psychology (Discovery SS)	4
HHS 401	College of Health and Human Services Seminar	1
PSYC 402 or SOC 402 or MATH 439 or HMP 540	Statistics in Psychology (Discovery QR) or Statistics or Statistical Discovery for Everyone or Statistics for Health and Human Service Professionals	4
NURS 531	Evidence Based Innovations in Nursing	4
Credits		17
Spring		
BMS 508	Human Anatomy and Physiology II (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing (Discovery WS, WI)	4
HDFS 525	Human Development (Discovery SS)	4
NURS 530	Professional Nursing Concepts and Theories	4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
BMS 501	Microbes in Human Disease (Discovery BS, DLab)	4
NURS 534	Fundamentals of Nursing Practice	6
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry/Writing Intensive		4
Credits		18
Spring		
NURS 532	Integrative Pathopharmacology in Nursing	4
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry		4
Discovery/Inquiry/Writing Intensive		4
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
NURS 630	Nursing Care of Adults with Chronic Conditions	6
NURS 633	Nursing Care in Reproductive and Sexual Health	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Spring		
NURS 631	Nursing Care of Adults with Acute Conditions	6
NURS 632	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16

Fourth Year		
Fall		
NURS 732W	Nursing Leadership within Healthcare Systems	4
NURS 733	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice	8
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Spring		
NURS 730	Integrated Pediatric and Family Nursing	6
NURS 734	Perspectives in Population Health Nursing	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		131

Non-Nursing Associate Degree to BSN Students

First Year		
Summer		
NURS 530	Professional Nursing Concepts and Theories	4
NURS 532	Integrative Pathopharmacology in Nursing	4
NURS 534	Fundamentals of Nursing Practice	6
Credits		14
Fall		
NURS 631	Nursing Care of Adults with Acute Conditions	6
NURS 632	Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	6
NURS 531	Evidence Based Innovations in Nursing	4
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		20
Spring		
NURS 630	Nursing Care of Adults with Chronic Conditions	6
NURS 633	Nursing Care in Reproductive and Sexual Health	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
NURS 730	Integrated Pediatric and Family Nursing	6
NURS 734	Perspectives in Population Health Nursing	6
Discovery/Elective		4
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		20
Spring		
NURS 732W	Nursing Leadership within Healthcare Systems	4
NURS 733	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice	8
Discovery/Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		86

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the baccalaureate nursing program, the student is prepared to

- Apply knowledge from liberal arts and sciences to deliver safe, competent, and compassionate care to diverse patients, families, and communities.
- Provide holistic, individualized, and evidence-based person and family centered care across the lifespan while advocating for social justice and equity in health care accessibility and quality.
- Engage in collaborative activities with community partners to advocate for equity and justice to improve health-related social needs and enhance population health.
- Utilize scholarly inquiry to inform best practices and compile evidence to address health-related problems across the healthcare system.
- Apply quality improvement science, to identify safety concerns and engage in risk mitigation strategies to improve patient care outcomes.
- Collaborate within multidisciplinary care teams, through effective communication and mutual respect, that enhances the quality of healthcare services and their delivery.
- Identify resources, across transitions of care in ever-changing healthcare systems, applying knowledge of cost-effectiveness and health policies to deliver equitable care.
- Utilize healthcare technologies and informatics processes to inform the provision of safe and effective care and support meaningful changes in nursing practice.
- Demonstrate a professional nursing identity marked by integrity, curiosity, civility, inclusion, and ethical practice.
- Participate in self-reflection to foster personal resilience and well-being and embrace lifelong learning to develop nursing expertise.

Additional information and related resources are available on the [Office of the Registrar's website](#).

¹ State specific post-education requirements are subject to change. Students are responsible for confirming these requirements in their state of residence and intended practice.

Disclosures

Nursing (B.S.N.)

Location/Delivery: School of Nursing, Durham Campus [In-Person Program]

This program is designed to prepare graduates for professional licensure/certification as follows:

Registered Nurse

National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses

*The University of New Hampshire has determined this program **meets** the educational requirements for licensure/certification in:*¹

Alaska, American Samoa, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.