

PENNSSTATE

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**The Pennsylvania State University  
School of Nursing**

**First Year Student Handbook**

**210 Health and Human Development East**

**University Park, PA 16802**

**(814) 863-0245**

**(814) 863-2925 – Fax**

[http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/undergrad/BS\\_program.html](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/undergrad/BS_program.html)

**Revised: Summer 2008**

## WELCOME

*On behalf of the faculty and staff, I welcome you as you begin your studies at Penn State's School of Nursing. We are pleased that you have chosen to major in nursing and believe it is an exciting time to enter the nursing profession. The nursing faculty and I are committed to preparing you in the best way possible for leadership roles alongside health care workers from other disciplines to improve both local and global health.*

*As a member of the nursing profession, you will have countless opportunities to affect the lives of the patients with whom you come in contact. Nurses, as the most trusted professional, have a responsibility to be knowledgeable and highly competent in the delivery of care. You will achieve this level of competence if you commit to investing time and effort in the academically rigorous curriculum we have prepared for you. You will also be expected to be caring, compassionate, and empathetic. Your investment in learning now will yield a lifetime of rewards as you grow as a professional nurse.*

*In addition to your classroom learning, you will have the opportunity to gain clinical experiences at The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and other community facilities that offer rich clinical opportunities. We hope that you choose to become involved in the faculty's research related to critical health issues such as care of children, including the newborn within the context of their family; care of elders; and health care delivery to rural populations. More than 70 highly qualified masters and doctorally prepared nursing faculty members stand ready to guide your learning experiences. I would encourage you to think of your classmates and the people you care for as rich resources, from whom you will gain invaluable knowledge and personal insights. Remember, there is much to learn outside the classroom.*

*The School, the College of Health and Human Development, and the University have assembled numerous resources to help you gain the most from your time here. We encourage you to use these resources to make this program work for you. Based on the experience of prior students, we have put together this handbook to help you access and use resources; however, please know that the faculty and staff of the School of Nursing are always available to provide additional assistance.*

*Wishing you a wonderful Penn State experience,*



*Paula Milone-Nuzzo, RN, PhD, FAAN, FHHC  
Dean and Professor  
School of Nursing*



## Career Benefits in Nursing

Nursing as a career offers worldwide opportunities for leadership in healthcare practice, research, and policy development. No matter what type of work setting RNs choose, they will be helping others. Nursing is a people-oriented profession that encompasses the individual, family, and community.

Healthcare reform is reshaping the nursing profession in new ways and will continue to do so well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The valuable and unique services that nursing offers can be advanced through education, beginning with the bachelor’s degree and continuing with graduate educational preparation. Whether there is an interest in primary care nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nursing education, and/or research, a fulfilling career can be obtained with the potential for a full scope of practice and direct decision making.

**The national average salary for full time registered nurses is \$57,280**

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/reprints/ocor008.pdf>

## Nursing Career Possibilities

|                           |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ambulatory Care           | Home Health               | Oncology Nurse             |
| Anesthetist               | Hospice Nursing           | OR (Perioperative) Nurse   |
| Call Center Triage        | Infection Control Nursing | Orthopaedic Nurse          |
| Cancer Center             | Insurance Consultant      | Out Patient Surgery Center |
| Cardiac Rehab             | Intravenous Nursing       | Outreach Services          |
| Case Management           | Labor and Delivery        | Pediatric Nurse            |
| Certified Nurse Mid-wife  | Legal Nurse Consultants   | Perinatal Nursing          |
| Clinical Nurse Specialist | Marketing                 | Perioperative Nursing      |
| Community Public Health   | Med/Surg Nursing          | Publishing                 |
| Community Rehab Nurse     | Mother/Baby Care          | Prof. Practice Educators   |
| Corporate Staff Nurse     | Nephrology Nursing        | Psych/Mental Health        |
| Critical Care             | Neuroscience Nursing      | Recovery Room              |
| Diabetes Education        | Nurse Entrepreneurs       | Respiratory Nurse          |
| Forensic                  | Nurse Researcher          | School Nurse               |
| Family Nurse Practitioner | Nursing Executives        | Surgery                    |
| Gerontological Nursing    | Nursing Informatics       | Surgical Admitting Area    |
| Government Service        | Nursing Staff Development | Trauma Nursing             |
| HIV / AIDS                | Occupational Nursing      | Travel Nurse               |

**The Pennsylvania State University  
School of Nursing**

**First Year Student Handbook  
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School of Nursing  
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is to be used as a guide in academic planning, career information, and a resource for procedure in the nursing program. **The handbook for the sophomore, junior, and senior years is available online: <http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/undergrad/handbooks.html>**

## Mission/Goals

### Mission

The mission of the School of Nursing is to improve the health for all people in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the nation and the world through the development of qualified nurse leaders at all levels of practice, the development of nursing science related to health and health care and the provision of nursing care to individuals, families and communities. This mission will be accomplished through the integrated programs of nursing education, research, scholarship and outreach.

### Goals

1. Recruit and retain the best qualified and most diverse student body for the undergraduate and graduate program.
2. Maintain and develop cutting edge academic programs
3. Strengthen our research and scholarly productivity
4. Strengthen external collaborations
5. Focus outreach efforts

Revised April, 2006

## **Philosophy**

The School of Nursing at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) is an integral part of the College of Health and Human Development. The faculty at the School of Nursing ascribe to the general philosophy and educational policy set forth by the College and Penn State. The faculty believe that education for nursing is best achieved under the auspices of institutions of higher education and accept accountability for the academic functions of teaching, research, and service. Beliefs shared by the faculty emphasize and support the importance of diversity and human development throughout the life span. These beliefs serve as a basis to assist individuals, families, and communities to develop desirable health patterns.

### **Human Beings**

Human beings are unique and unitary. They are constantly evolving in the direction of increasing complexity as the individual accumulates experiences, life not only involves a fuller potential, but also offers a greater variety of behavioral repertoire. Important dimensions of human beings include: growth and development across the life span; communications and relationships that develop between individuals and within families, groups, and communities; and those characteristics identified with human consciousness such as values, creativity, feelings, choices, and will. The capacity for thought and emotion enables individuals to be introspective, purposeful, and self-directed. His/her learning behaviors are motivated in response to perceived needs.

### **Environment**

Environment is viewed as the contextual systems in which the individual, the family, the group, and the community exist and interact. The environmental contexts include: the personal environment consisting of significant others and social support systems in the life of the individual; the group environment, consisting of characteristics which emerge and develop as he/she relates in a group situation; the supra-personal environment that represents the norm of the person's proximal environment; the social environment consisting of those societal forces impacting on the individual; and the physical environment, that portion of the person's environment that is reducible to matter. Human beings, as open systems, are in mutual, simultaneous process with the environment and continually change together during that process.

### **Health**

Health, which fluctuates throughout the life span, is a gestalt of wellness and illness. Wellness and illness are coexisting and interacting phenomena. The unitary person interacts with the totality of the environment, and the unique quality of this interaction influences one's health. Health is a synthesis of dynamic patterns of energy within the individual and between the person and environment. Health patterns maintain themselves and manifest multiple configurations of individual and environmental relations. Health is self-perceived and relative to each person's or group's beliefs and values. Common approaches to the understanding of the phenomenon of health stem from theories of human development, stress, disease, adaptation, crisis, life style, change, and consciousness. Because health patterns are dynamic, the recognition, identification, and facilitation require periodic assessment.

## **Nursing**

Nursing is a humanistic profession, which respects the human being's dignity, integrity, and right to self-determination. The focus of nursing is the health of the person throughout the life span. Based on the assumption that the person has a responsibility for his/her own health, the goals of nursing are to utilize the nursing process in assisting clients in the recognition of health patterns and, when necessary, in the identification and facilitation of desirable alternatives. Nursing assumes a responsibility to society to develop and transmit knowledge and to provide service to individuals, families, groups, and communities as clients. Nursing educators, acting as an autonomous body, accept the responsibility for the development of professionals who are able to invest of self as therapeutic agents, who utilize critical thinking and decision-making skills to provide leadership in health care, and who have defined values and ethics relating to practice and research. The nature of nursing as a professional discipline includes its history, philosophy, science, and practice.

## **Beliefs about Learning/Nursing Education**

### **Learning**

Learning is a continuous, life-long process of self-discovery, knowledge development, evaluation, and growth. It is individualistic and proceeds in a simple to complex manner from the level of development, interests, and motivations of the learner. The teaching-learning process is reciprocal and interactive, with faculty and students sharing the cooperative enterprise of learning, inquiry, teaching, and evaluation. The learner is an active participant who assumes responsibility for his/her own learning, and independent learning is fostered by encouragement and support of the learner's self-directed inquiry. The role of faculty is to facilitate the learning process and to provide and foster opportunities for life-long learning.

### **Nursing Education**

Nursing is primarily an intellectual endeavor and requires that its practitioners develop critical habits, intellectual curiosity, and disciplined modes of inquiry that are used in the practice of nursing. Nurses and nursing students should develop an understanding of the humanities, learn the fundamentals of the natural and social sciences, and acquire skills and perspectives unique to the field of nursing. One of the faculty's major responsibilities is to develop and implement a nursing curriculum that draws from other disciplines; that organizes content around the fundamental concepts of health, humankind, and environment; and develops full appreciation of nursing's special obligation to teach. The faculty is equally aware of the responsibility to students and nurses to engage actively and continuously in opportunities that will enhance nursing competence and personal awareness. Furthermore, the faculty is sensitive to variations among students that may influence how rapidly and expertly they may be able to assume adequate nursing knowledge and related responsibilities. They encourage personal expressions of interest and preferences within the academic traditions of the University.

The faculty support the concept of educational mobility to provide opportunities for qualified students to enter new careers. The faculty recognize that students learn in many ways and their competencies may be validated by a variety of internal and external evaluative measures. Continuing education is a part of nursing education and supportive to the concept of lifelong learning.

The focus of associate degree education in nursing is to prepare a competent individual to provide nursing care in a variety of health care settings to individuals with commonly occurring acute or chronic health problems. The graduate of the associate degree program is prepared to (1) be accountable for his/her practice, (2) utilize nursing process in providing care, (3) collaborate and consult with other health team members, and (4) practice in a variety of health care settings.

The Associate Degree Program in Nursing consists of a basic foundation in the scientific and humanistic disciplines inherent in basic education. Nursing courses provide the foundation to enter the nursing discipline at a beginning level of competency. In addition to courses in nursing, other studies complement the nursing component and provide a basic level of general education. The structure of the Associate Degree Program in Nursing follows the same pattern as that of other associate degree programs at the University.

The focus of baccalaureate education in nursing is to prepare an individual with general nursing skills, knowledge, and values, who can function as a nurse within the health care system to provide comprehensive service to individuals, families, groups, and communities. The graduate of the baccalaureate program is prepared to (1) be accountable for his/her own nursing practice, (2) accept responsibility for the provision of nursing care through others, (3) develop methods of working collaboratively with other health professionals, and (4) practice in a variety of health care settings.

The Baccalaureate Program in Nursing is characterized by a foundation in scientific and humanistic disciplines inherent in learning, upon which is built the major in nursing. In addition to nursing courses, upper division studies include courses that complement the nursing component and increase the depth of general education. The structure of the Baccalaureate Program in nursing follows the same pattern as that of other baccalaureate programs at the University.

Differences may be found in practice settings and in the level of autonomy. However, the complexity of decision-making within the nursing process is a major component in the differentiation of roles and levels of nursing practice between the associate degree nurse and the baccalaureate-prepared nurse. The focus of master's education in nursing is to prepare a nursing scholar as an advanced practice nurse with a specialty focus in clinical nursing. The master's degree specialists include clinical nurse specialists, and acute and primary care nurse practitioners who serve individuals, families, and aggregate groups within diverse populations and settings.

The focus of doctoral education in nursing is to develop nurse scientists who are expert clinical scholars and able to provide leadership in nursing practice, research, and education. Graduate education in nursing is characterized by a philosophy of expanding ideas and emphasis on knowledge development in nursing and health care. The primary goal of graduate nursing education is the development, transmission, and organization of nursing knowledge and the translation of that knowledge into practice in order to promote the health of individuals, families, and communities throughout society. The graduate nursing programs are an integral part of the Graduate School and graduate education at Penn State.

Approved: 1/99

## **Accreditation**

The School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science degree is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and is accredited by the:

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC)  
61 Broadway, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
(212) 363-5555

and the

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)  
One Dupont Circle, NW  
Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 463-6930

## **End of Program Objectives**

The nurse will:

- Evaluate principles, models, and theories from nursing and related disciplines for applicability in clinical practice.
- Apply the nursing process with individuals, families, and groups of diverse cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in a variety of health care settings.
- Collaborate with colleagues from nursing, other disciplines, and consumers to facilitate desirable outcomes in clinical practice.
- Critically analyze research studies and apply to clinical practice.
- Demonstrate accountability in the delivery of professional nursing care.
- Participate in activities that advance nursing as a profession and self as a professional.

Revised: 02/04

## **A. ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **Academic Progression Policy**

This policy delineates the academic standards for pre-licensure\* students admitted to the undergraduate nursing program. The following requirements are necessary for progression in the nursing program.

Overall Criteria:

1. All prerequisite courses and required Nursing courses may only be repeated one time.
2. Successful completion of prerequisite courses is defined as a grade of “C” or better according to the University grading scale.
3. Successful completion of required nursing courses is defined as a “C” or better according to the School of Nursing Grading Scale.
4. A student who earns a “D” or “F” in the **same** required nursing course for a second time will be dismissed from the nursing major and counseling relative to other majors/options will be provided.
5. A student who earns a “D” or “F” in any two required nursing courses will be dismissed from the nursing major and counseling relative to other majors/options will be provided.
6. Late course drop, with the designation of withdraw failing (WF), from a prerequisite or required nursing course is considered a failure.
7. Students who wish to return to the University after a leave of absence or reenroll after withdrawing will re-enter under the current curricular requirements. Based on demonstration of clinical skills, an independent study course may be advised. In addition, scheduling in clinical courses may depend on availability of clinical space.
8. In very extreme situations, the Dean of the School of Nursing may make exceptions to this policy.

\*Pre-licensure---students without an RN license, which includes BS and AD students

Senate approval: Spring 2006

Effective: Summer 2006

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. At the beginning of each course, it is the responsibility of the instructor to provide a statement clarifying the application of academic integrity criteria to that course. A student charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor. If students believe they have been falsely accused, they should seek redress through informal discussion with the instructor, department head, dean, or campus executive officer. If the instructor believes that the infraction is sufficiently serious to warrant referral of the case to Judicial Affairs, or if the instructor will award a final grade of “F” in the course because of the infraction, the student and instructor will be afforded formal due process.

## Academic Grievance Procedures

The following assumptions are acknowledged:

- All members of the University community, students, faculty, and administration, have rights and responsibilities, which support Penn State as an institution of higher learning.
- Students, faculty, and administration sometimes have differing perceptions of what these rights and responsibilities are.
- Students of the Nursing Program are subject to procedures for resolving grievances of an academic nature in accordance with *The University Faculty Senate Policies for Students* at [www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/](http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/)

## Grade Mediation and Adjudication

The School of Nursing follows Penn State's policies stated in Senate Policies on Grades (*Senate Policies 47-00; 48-00; 49-00*), and *Senate Resolution of Student Classroom Problems* at [www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/](http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/)

### Definition of Grades

For undergraduates, the grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F indicate a gradation in quality from excellence to failure and are assigned the following grade-point equivalents:

### Definition of Grades and School of Nursing Grading Scale

| Grade | Grade-Point Equivalent | School of Nursing Grading Scale |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A     | 4.00                   | 94-100                          |
| A-    | 3.67                   | 90-93                           |
| B+    | 3.33                   | 87-89                           |
| B     | 3.00                   | 83-86                           |
| B-    | 2.67                   | 80-82                           |
| C+    | 2.33                   | 77-79                           |
| C     | 2.00                   | 75-76                           |
| D     | 1.00                   | 68-74                           |
| F     | 0                      | Below 68                        |

## **Disability Statement**

The Pennsylvania State University welcomes student with disabilities into the University's education programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications or reasonable accommodations, contact the Office for Disability Services, ODS, located at 116 Boucke Building at 1-814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS please visit their web site at [www.equity.psu.edu/ods](http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods). Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for modification or reasonable accommodations.

University Policy

confirmed by faculty 06/04

## **Diversity Statement**

The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing value and are committed to fostering diversity in the classroom, the University, and the profession. By respecting differences in culture, age, gender, gender expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, differing abilities, sexual orientation, and religious affiliation, we enrich the learning environment; improve the practice and profession of Nursing; and enhance personal creativity and professional growth.

## **Functional Abilities Policy**

Per the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, "in addition to character and academic qualifications, students desirous of becoming nurses must have the necessary behavioral, communication, sensory and physical requirements to be able to practice nursing as it is defined in the law." "He/she must have adequate cognitive, sensory and psychomotor functioning to effectively implement nursing care." Additionally, "a student must be able to tolerate physically taxing activities and exercise restraint during stressful situations in order to meet the demands of the profession." (Memo from the PA State Board of Nursing, Factors which Impact on Nursing Education Program Policies, February 28, 2001.)

## **Advising**

The objectives of the University's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote intellectual discovery, to encourage students to take advantage of both in- and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers. Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. See <http://www.psu.edu/dept/ufs/policies/32-00.html#32-10> (Senate Policy in Advising 32-30) for specific responsibilities of adviser and advisee.

## **Nursing Advising Process**

As an entering first-year student for the Fall of 2008, you have been enrolled directly into the major of nursing. During the first year of your college career, you are assigned an adviser at your campus location. Regular contact with your adviser is of utmost importance as you proceed through your prerequisite requirements, general education, general electives, etc. Failure to complete required freshman prerequisite courses may prevent progression to the sophomore year. A Recommended Academic Plan (page15) should be utilized when consulting with your adviser to develop your plan of study for your freshman year.

After you have completed your first year and fulfilled major prerequisites with a “C” or better, you are ready to begin your nursing major requirements during your sophomore year. All students are assigned to University Park for their sophomore year. In the junior year you will be assigned a nursing faculty adviser whom you will see for the completion of your nursing education. Nursing faculty are dedicated to their students and will work very closely with you as you proceed through your clinicals and begin to prepare for graduation. To be sure you get the best quality advising possible, please follow these recommendations:

1. When scheduling an appointment or leaving a message be sure to speak slowly and clearly and announce your name, ID#, telephone number, and reason for calling.
2. Come to your appointment prepared with questions.
3. Follow through on any recommendations your adviser gives you.
4. Check any bulletin boards on your way in and out of your adviser’s office.
5. If you cannot keep your appointment, kindly email or call to cancel or reschedule.
6. Students will receive a Plan of Study prepared by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Outreach that will designate when and where (University Park/Hershey Medical Center) to take nursing courses. Requests to study both the junior and senior years at Hershey Medical Center will be accepted.

**The advisers in the School of Nursing look forward to building a strong relationship with their students.**

### **Change of Campus**

Students admitted to Nursing at a campus location other than University Park will be assigned an adviser at their local campus. However, the advisers at University Park are available to answer any questions or provide additional information. Nursing students at non-University Park locations must request an early Change of Campus to University Park during the Spring Semester of their first year. This Change of Campus will be approved contingent upon the successful (grade of C or better) completion of Biol 129 (Anatomy) and Biol 141 (Physiology) and the student’s active status in the Nursing major. If the student obtains less than a C in either of the specified courses, changes major, or does not enroll in appropriate Nursing course work, the early Change of Campus will be rescinded.

**Recommended Academic Plan for Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (NURS at University Park)  
Effective Summer 2006**

| Semester 1  | Credits | Semester 2   | Credits |
|---|---------|--|---------|
| <b>BIOL 141 (GN)</b> Physiology   | 3       | <b>BIOL 129 (GN)</b> Anatomy   | 4       |
| <b>BIOL 142</b> Physiology Lab  | 1       | <b>HD FS 129 (GS)</b> Human Dev. & Family Studies                        | 3       |
| ENGL 015 <u>or</u> 030 (GWS) Composition/Honors Comp.                                 | 3       | <b>NUTR 251 (GHA)</b> Principles of Nutrition                            | 3       |
| <b>PSYCH 100 (GS)</b> Intro Psychology  | 3       | CAS 100 A, B, <u>or</u> C (GWS) Effective Speech                         | 3       |
| First-Year Seminar  | 1       | Quantification (GQ) (selected MATH)                                      | 3       |
| Humanities (GH)   | 3       |  |         |
| Arts (GA)   | 3       |  |         |
| Total Credits:  | 17      | Total Credits:   | 16      |
| Semester 3  | Credits | Semester 4   | Credits |
| <b>CHEM 101 <u>or</u> CHEM 110 &amp; 111 (GN)</b> Intro Chemistry/Chemical Principles | 3-4     | <b>SOC 001 <u>or</u> SOC 005 (GS)</b> Intro to Sociology/Social Problems | 3       |
| <b>MICRB 106 (GN)</b> Microbiology  | 3       | <b>STAT 200 (GQ)</b> Elementary Statistics                               | 4       |
| <b>MICRB 107 (GN)</b> Microbiology Lab  | 1       | <b>NURS 225</b> Health: Introduction to Illness                          | 3       |
| <b>NURS 215 (US)</b> Health: Intro to Wellness  | 3       | <b>NURS 230</b> Health: Nursing Process ( <u>first clinical course</u> ) | 4       |
| <b>NURS 351</b> Health Assessment   | 3       | Humanities (GH)  | 3       |
| Elective  | 1-3     |  |         |
| Total Credits:  | 14-17   | Total Credits:   | 17      |
| Semester 5  | Credits | Semester 6   | Credits |
| <b>NURS 205</b> Intro to Pharmacology Concepts  | 3       | <b>NURS 200W</b> Intro to Nursing Research                               | 3       |
| <b>NURS 301</b> Nursing Care – Medical  | 4       | <b>NURS 302</b> Nursing Care – Surgical                                  | 4       |
| <b>NURS 310</b> Nursing Care – Elderly  | 4       | <b>NURS 320</b> Nursing Care – Obstetrics                                | 4       |
| Arts (GA)   | 3       | ENGL 202 A, B, C, <u>or</u> D (GWS) Effective Writing                    | 3       |
| Total Credits:  | 14      | Total Credits:   | 14      |
| Semester 7  | Credits | Semester 8   | Credits |
| <b>NURS 400</b> Professional Role development   | 3       | <b>NURS 405</b> Nursing Care – Complex Health                            | 4       |
| <b>NURS 415 (US;IL)</b> Community & Family Health                                     | 4       | <b>NURS 406</b> Nursing Care – Child and Adolescent                      | 4       |
| <b>NURS 420</b> Mental Health   | 4       | <b>NURS</b> Elective   | 3       |
| Elective  | 3       | Elective   | 3       |
| Total Credits:  | 14      | Total Credits:   | 14      |

- **Bold Type** indicates courses requiring a quality grade of C or better.
- *Italics* indicate courses that satisfy both major and General Education requirements.
- **Bold Italics** indicate courses requiring a quality grade of C or better and that satisfy both major and General Education requirements.
- GWS, GHA, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are codes used to identify General Education requirement.
- US, IL, and US;IL are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements.
- W is the code used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirements.

**Scheduling Patterns (courses not taught each semester):** BIOL 142 is offered at UP in the fall semester. NURS 205, NURS 215, NURS 351, and NURS 400 are offered in the fall; NURS 225 and NURS 230 are offered in the spring.

**Program Notes:** Freshman year can be at any campus; sophomore year is at UP; junior and senior years are either at UP or Hershey Medical Center and include 12 hours of clinical experience per week.

**Academic Advising Notes:** MATH 021 is a prerequisite for CHEM 101. MATH 022 is prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 021, any GQ may be scheduled. BIOL 141 and BIOL 129 must be passed with a quality grade of C or better to progress to 200-level nursing courses. See **School of Nursing Grading Scale** and **Academic Progression Policy** in the BS Nursing Handbook at [http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/handbooks/docs/BS\\_HdbkSP07.pdf](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/handbooks/docs/BS_HdbkSP07.pdf)

## Course Progression Requirements

**To progress to the next level, the following courses must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to or by the following deadlines:**

**Freshmen Year:** Biol 129 Mammalian Anatomy (required for Nurs 351, Health Assessment)  
Biol 141 Physiology (required for Nurs 351, Health Assessment)  
Math 021 College Algebra if FTCAP placement indicates (required for Chem 101) or Math 022 College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry for Chem 110 and 111

**Sophomore Year:**

Fall: Biol 142 Physiology lab (required for Nurs 225, Pathophysiology)  
Micrb 106 Microbiology (required for Nurs 225, Pathophysiology)  
Chem 101 Introductory Chemistry OR Chem 110 Chemical Principles and Chem 111 Experimental Chemistry (required for Nurs 225, Pathophysiology)  
Nurs 215 Health: Introduction to Wellness (required for Nurs 230)  
Nurs 351 Health Assessment (required for Nurs 230)

Spring: Nurs 225 Pathophysiology (required for 300-level Nurs courses)  
Nurs 230 Nursing Fundamentals (required for clinical courses)  
Micrb 107 Microbiology Lab  
Stat 200 (required for Nurs 200W)  
Nutrition 251  
All sciences and most gen eds should be done by end of sophomore year

**Junior Year:** All junior level nursing courses as outlined on individual Plan of Study

Students who earn below a “C” will need to repeat the course/courses before enrolling in the higher level nursing courses. Clinical courses that are not successfully completed must be retaken at another site with a different instructor.

## **Curriculum and Degree Requirements**

### **General Education**

Students who were admitted to Penn State Summer of 1999 and after must complete 45-46 credits of General Education courses selected from the approved list. Certain important points need to be addressed:

1. Students should be advised that the requirements for the major of certain baccalaureate degree programs include courses that have been approved as General Education courses. In those cases, appropriate choices of General Education courses also will satisfy the requirements for the major and are identified in that section for each major in the Baccalaureate Degree Programs Bulletin. When a course is used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits in the course can be counted toward graduation only once.
  2. A sequence of 9 credits may be developed in the arts, humanities, or social and behavioral sciences by substituting 3 credits from one of the other two areas not in the student's major.
  3. The satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading system may not be used for courses taken to satisfy General Education.
1. Students who have not completed 2 years of study of the same foreign language in high school must take one 3-4 credit language course within the first 60 credits. This requirement does not apply to students who can demonstrate fluency in a foreign/second language. Credits earned to make up the deficiency cannot be counted toward graduation.

#### **General Education Codes:**

|     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| GWS | Writing/Speaking               |
| GQ  | Quantification                 |
| GHA | General Health Activities      |
| GN  | Natural Sciences               |
| GA  | Arts                           |
| GH  | Humanities                     |
| GS  | Social and Behavioral Sciences |

#### **General Education (Gen Ed) in Nursing**

Writing/Speaking (GWS) – 9 credits: Engl 015--Rhetoric and Composition; CAS 100--Public Speaking; Engl 202—Persuasive Writing

Natural Sciences (GN) – 9 credits: Biol 129--Anatomy; Biol 141--Physiology; Micrb 106 & 107-- Microbiology

Quantification (Math) (GQ) – 6 credits: Math 021--College Algebra I (unless FTCAP scores indicate Math 22 or 110/140; then choice); Stat 200 - Statistics

Social/Behavioral Sciences (GS) – 6 credits: Psych 100--Psychology; HD FS 129--Human Development; Soc 001 or 005--Sociology or Social Problems

Arts (GA) – 6 credits: Student's choice

Humanities (GH) – 6 credits: Student's choice

Health and Physical Activity (GHA) – 3 credits: Nutr 251—Nutrition

US and IL Cultures: Nurs 215--Intro to Wellness—US; Nurs 415--Community and Family Health—US, IL

## **Writing Across The Curriculum**

All students who entered the University Summer of 1990 and after must complete at least three credits of writing-intensive courses. These courses must be selected from approved writing-intensive courses offered within the major or college of enrollment. **NURS 200W, Introduction to Nursing Research, will satisfy this requirement.**

## **United States Cultures and International Cultures Requirement (US and IL)**

**Students admitted to baccalaureate degree status after spring 2005** must complete 3 credits in US and 3 credits in IL. If a student takes a 3-credit course that is both US and IL, to complete the requirement, he/she must take another 3-credit course that is US, IL, or both US and IL. Education abroad courses and other credit-bearing experiences such as internships that meet this requirement will be designated as US, IL, or both US and IL. NURS 215 and NURS 415 fulfill these requirements.

## **THE KEY TO MAJOR SUCCESS IS A FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR**



### **First-Year Seminars**

The School of Nursing, in connection with Penn State's College of Health and Human Development has created a specially designed course just for first-year students. This course is called a First-Year Seminar and will provide you with a very unique and exciting way to begin your Penn State education. All First-Year Seminars are limited to only 25 students and are taught by experienced faculty with excellent teaching records.

The First-Year Seminars in the College of Health and Human Development:

- Are small, interactive classes designed to provide opportunities to develop a lasting relationship with faculty members and other students having the same interests.
- Introduce students to active learning including critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, time and stress management, and the learning tools and resources available at Penn State.
- Help smooth the transition to college life and acquaint students with their responsibilities as members of the Penn State community.
- Introduce students to the high expectations, demanding workload, and increased academic liberties they will encounter at Penn State.
- Orient students to the Penn State scholarly community.
- Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity to become an effective lifelong learner.
- Introduce students to different ways that they can become a better student, scholar, and person.

Please meet with your adviser if you have not scheduled a First-Year Seminar. The seminar should be completed no later than the Spring 2009 Semester.

## **Nursing Audit**

A copy of a blank nursing audit is shown on Page 21. The audit is how the School of Nursing keeps track of your progress toward graduation. Your degree audit can also be accessed on the Internet: <http://www.psu.edu> then going under elion and clicking on “Degree Audit.”

The degree audit shows your progress toward completing your degree. The top shows your name, your cumulative GPA, your grades for each course during the last semester, your courses scheduled or in progress for the current semester, and the GPA for your major. Below the GPA for the major, you will find the requirements for the major. As you complete each requirement, the “-” next to the requirement will be changed to a “+” sign.

Next, the audit shows your progress towards completing the General Education requirements, listing the number of credits needed in Writing and Speaking (GWS), Quantification (GQ), Natural Sciences (GN), Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS), and General Health Activities (GHA).

Below the General Education requirement section is the area where your General Electives will be listed, as well as sections for other graduation requirements, including the Writing Across the Curriculum (W) requirement, the United States and International Cultures (US and IL) requirement, and a few others. Just below this is the legend that explains the symbols used on the audit (not shown here).

PREPARED: 08/14/07 - 11:31                      HH NURS  
MAJOR/OPTION REQUIREMENTS  
AUDIT CODE: B S NURS                      PROGRAM YEAR: 2007  
PENN STATE DEGREE AUDIT REPORT  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
NURSING

-----  
AT LEAST ONE REQUIREMENT HAS NOT BEEN SATISFIED  
-----

GRADES FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2007  
-----

CURRENT SCHEDULE  
-----

\*\* GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THE MAJOR \*\*  
-----

NO MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

\*\*C OR HIGHER GRADE REQUIRED\*\*

--> NEEDS:                      6 SUBREQMNTS

- 1) TAKE THE FOLLOWING  
COURSE LIST: BIOL 142
  
- 2) TAKE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
\*\*22 CREDITS MAY ALSO APPLY TO GENERAL EDUCATION\*\*  
COURSE LIST: BIOL 129 ,141 HD FS129 MICRB106 ,107  
NUTR 251 PSYCH100 STAT 200
  
- 3) TAKE 3-4 CREDITS IN CHEMISTRY  
\*\*CHEM 110/111 MAY ALSO APPLY TO GENERAL EDUCATION\*\*  
NEEDS: 3.0 CREDITS  
COURSE LIST: CHEM 101 ,111 (R),110
  
- 4) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN SOCIOLOGY  
\*\*CREDITS MAY ALSO APPLY TO GENERAL EDUCATION\*\*  
NEEDS: 3.0 CREDITS  
COURSE LIST: SOC 001 ,005
  
- 5) TAKE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
COURSE LIST: NURS 200W,205 ,215 ,225 ,230 ,310 ,301 ,  
NURS 302 ,320 ,351 ,400 ,405 ,406 ,415 ,420
  
- 6) TAKE 3 CRDTS FROM SCHOOL LIST IN HANDBOOK  
NEEDS: 3.0 CREDITS

-----  
NO GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

--> NEEDS:                      11 SUBREQMNTS

- 1) TAKE ENGL 015 OR 030 (3 CREDITS)
  
- 2) TAKE ENGL 202 (3 CREDITS)
  
- 3) TAKE CAS 100 (3 CREDITS)
  
- 4) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN QUANTIFICATION (GQ) - SELECT FROM  
MATHEMATICS, APPLIED MATHEMATICS OR STATISTICS  
\*\*C OR HIGHER GRADE REQUIRED\*\*
  
- 5) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN QUANTIFICATION (GQ) - SELECT FROM ANY  
QUANTIFICATION AREA
  
- 6) TAKE 6 CREDITS IN NATURAL SCIENCES (GN)

- 7) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN NATURAL SCIENCES (GN)
- 8) TAKE 6 CREDITS IN ARTS (GA)
- 9) TAKE 6 CREDITS IN HUMANITIES (GH)
- 10) TAKE 6 CREDITS IN SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (GS)
- 11) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (GHA)  
NEEDS: 3.0 CREDITS

-----  
ELECTIVES (6 - 9 CREDITS MINIMUM)  
-----

FOREIGN/SECOND LANGUAGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENT  
-----

NO FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR  
TAKE 1 CREDIT MINIMUM IN FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR  
-----

NO WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM  
TAKE 3 CREDITS IN 'W' SUFFIX COURSES FROM YOUR COLLEGE  
-----

NO UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES (US/IL)  
--> NEEDS: 2 SUBREQMNTS

- 1) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN UNITED STATES CULTURES (US)
- 2) TAKE 3 CREDITS IN INTERNATIONAL CULTURES (IL)

-----  
NO GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - SENATE POLICY 83-80

- 1) AT LEAST 36 OF THE LAST 60 CREDITS MUST BE  
EARNED AT PENN STATE  
NEEDS: 36.0 CREDITS
- 2) AT LEAST 60 CREDITS MUST BE EARNED IN LAST FIVE YEARS  
NEEDS: 60.0 CREDITS

-----  
NO MINIMUM 2.00 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIRED FOR  
GRADUATION - SENATE POLICY 82-40  
-----

NO MINIMUM 120.0 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION  
-----

#### LEGEND

NO Requirement not completed  
 OK Requirement completed  
 IP Requirement in-progress, OK when satisfactorily completed  
 OR One requirement/subrequirement of group needs to be completed  
 - Subrequirement not completed  
 + Subrequirement completed or in-progress  
 \* Subrequirement not required, but courses apply  
 RG Registered course  
 SH Scheduled course  
 TR Transfer course  
 IL Independent Learning course, in-progress  
 PA Portfolio assessment course  
 LD Late dropped course  
 >R Repeatable course, counts more than once  
 >Z Duplicate course, counts once  
 >S Credits split between two or more requirements  
 >Y Credit limit for repeat course exceeded

## B. COURSES

### Course Descriptions

#### Key to Semester Hour Designation

4 SH (2,2) = 4 Semester Hours (2 semester hours in *lecture*, 2 semester hours in *lab/clinical*)

Each semester hour in *lecture* = 50 minutes contact

Each semester hour in *lab/clinical* = 3 hours (or 180 minutes) contact

Therefore, a 4 credit course would meet for two (2) 50 minute lecture periods and 6 hours of clinical (2 x 3 hours) per week over a 15-week semester.

**Required Nursing Courses** (All prerequisite courses must be successfully completed with a “C” or higher.)

**NURS 200W—Introduction to Nursing Research**—3 SH (3,0) Introduction to methods and philosophy of empirical inquiry as applied to research in nursing. Prerequisites: STAT 200 and NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; or Prerequisite NURS 390 and STAT 200 for RN to BS majors

**NURS 205—Introduction to Pharmacological Concepts**—3 SH (3,0) Study of basic concepts of pharmacology and relevant nursing implications. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; or approval of nursing program

**NURS 215(US)—Health: Introduction to Wellness**—3 SH (3,0) Designed to explore the wellness component of health, with emphasis on concepts of health, life-style patterns, and nursing intervention. Prerequisites: BIOL 129, BIOL 141 and enrolled in NURS major

**NURS 225—Health: Introduction to Illness**—3 SH (3,0) Designed to explore the illness component of health with emphasis on the pathophysiological and psychosocial aspects. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 351, BIOL 129, BIOL 141; prerequisite or concurrent, MICRB 106, MICRB 107, CHEM 101 or CHEM 110 and 111

**NURS 230—Health: Nursing Process**—4 SH (2,2) Analysis of the nursing process and introduction to clinical competencies and psychosocial skills. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 351

**NURS 300H—Honors Seminar in Nursing**—3 SH (3,0) Seminar activities on selected topics in nursing. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351, admission to the Honors Program

**NURS 301—Nursing Care of the Client through the Adult Life Span requiring Medical Intervention**—4 SH (2,2) Therapeutic nursing care of the adult patient in a variety of primarily medical settings. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; Prerequisite or concurrent: NURS 205

**NURS 302—Nursing Care of the Client through the Adult Life Span requiring Surgical Intervention**—4 SH (2,2) Practice and delivery of therapeutic nursing care to the adult patient in a variety of primarily surgical settings. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; Prerequisite or concurrent: NURS 205

**NURS 310—Nursing Care of the Elderly**—4 SH (2,2) Nursing concerns and intervention in promoting the health of the elderly. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; Prerequisite or concurrent: NURS 205

**NURS 320—Nursing Care of Young Adults**—4 SH (2,2) Methods of and practice in the delivery of therapeutic nursing care to young adults in the childbearing phase of life. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351; Prerequisite or concurrent: NURS 205

**NURS 351—Health Assessment**—3 SH (2,1) Designed to broaden the student's knowledge and skills in health assessment and physical examination across the lifespan. Prerequisites: Concurrent: NURS 215; Prerequisite NURS 111 and 112 (for Associate Degree Majors); or current and valid RN license for RN to BS majors

**NURS 400—Professional Role Development**—3 SH (3,0) Implications of nursing leadership for the professional nurse. Study of leadership roles and various styles of nursing management. Prerequisites: NURS 205, NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, NURS 320

**NURS 405—Nursing Care of the Adult Client with Complex Health Problems**—4 SH (2,2) In-depth study of care of patients with acute and complex health problems, utilizing nursing theory and practice. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, NURS 320

**NURS 406—Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents**—4 SH (2,2) Common health problems and nursing intervention for children and adolescents. Prerequisites: NURS 205, NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320

**NURS 415(US,IL)—Community and Family Health Nursing: Concepts and Applications**—4 SH (2,2) Health promotion concepts to meet the health care needs of multicultural families and groups in community health nursing practice. Prerequisites: NURS 205, NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320

**NURS 420—Mental Health Nursing**—4 SH (2,2) Emphasizes the clinical application of mental health theory in nursing care of patients with acute and chronic mental health problems. Prerequisites: NURS 205, NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320

**Nursing Electives** (Please check course schedules for offerings.) Electives are not offered every semester at each campus location and some electives are offered through Continuing Education (CE).

**NURS 115—Medications and the Elderly Client**—1 SH (1,0) Nursing implications of medication therapy with the elderly client.

**NURS 203 (GHA)—First Aid and CPR**—3 SH (3,0) An introductory first aid course designed to provide the basic knowledge and skills to provide assistance to someone injured/ill. Prerequisites: None.

**NURS 303—Clinical Application of Laboratory Tests**—1 SH (1,0) A study of the background, meaning, and nursing implications of laboratory test results. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351

**NURS 304—Concepts of Pain Management**—1 SH (1,0) Nursing management of clients experiencing a variety of types of pain. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, NURS 351

**NURS 401(IL)—Concepts of Health**—3 SH (3,0) Exploration of current and ancient concepts of health and their respective modes of intervention. Prerequisites: 6 credits in humanities and/or social sciences.

**NURS 402—Holistic Health** – 3 SH (3,0) Examination of emerging conceptualizations of health and therapy based on a holistic view of human beings. Prerequisite: NURS 401

**NURS 404—Cardiac Dysrhythmias: Interpretation, Treatment, and Nursing Management**—1 SH (1,0) An introductory course with a focus on dysrhythmia recognition and interpretation of abnormal 12-lead electrocardiograms (EKG, ECG). Diagnosis, medical treatment, and nursing management will be incorporated into the discussion of each dysrhythmia in order to provide the necessary knowledge and skills essential for accurate dysrhythmia identification and management. Prerequisites: BIOL 141, BIOL 129 or equivalent, or approval of the department.

**NURS 407—Drugs of Abuse and Mental Health Issues**—3 SH (3,0) Examines the health care needs across the lifespan of clients who have an alcohol or other drug disorder in combination with a psychiatric disorder. Prerequisites: BB H 143 or PSYCH 100, or approval of the department.

**NURS 408—Clinical Application of Pharmacological Concepts**—1 SH (1,0) Study of the application of pharmacological concepts to the clinical setting. Prerequisites: NURS 205, NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320

**NURS 409—Introduction to Forensic Nursing**—3 SH (3,0) Provides an introduction to the forensic health sciences, clinical forensic nursing, and the nursing role in the scientific investigation of violence. Describes the principles and philosophy of forensic nursing in acute care and community settings. Roles of the forensic science professional and advanced practice forensic nurse are explored. Prerequisites: NURS 215, NURS 225, NURS 230, or approval of the department.

**NURS 430—Organization and Administration for the Nurse Manager**—3 SH (3,0) Introduction to organizational theory and principles of practice in the administration of nursing services and patient care. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320; or current and valid RN license for RN to BS majors

**NURS 431—Data Management for Nurse Managers**—3 SH (3,0) Analysis of information systems to manage nursing service organizations. Includes financial management, the budget processes, and productivity measurement. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320; or current and valid RN license for RN to BS majors

**NURS 432—Nursing Management of Human Resources**—3 SH (3,0) Human resource management and related factors in nursing service organizations. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320; or current and valid RN license for RN to BS majors

**NURS 433—Seminar for Nurse Managers—3 SH (3,0)** Course focuses on the application of management principles in the role of the nurse manager. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, and NURS 320; or current and valid RN license for RN to BS majors

**NURS 440—Trauma/Critical Care Nursing—3 SH (3,0)** Focuses on the impact of and the nursing care of persons experiencing acute trauma and/or critical illness. Prerequisites: NURS 301, NURS 302, NURS 310, NURS 320 or approval of nursing program

**NURS 452(US)—Women’s Health Issues—3 SH (3,0)** Overview of major health issues concerning women today, with an emphasis on social, cultural, and medical influences. Prerequisites: BIOL 141 or PSYCH 100.

**NURS 457—Introduction to Computing and Nursing Informatics—3 SH (2,1)** An introduction to computers and nursing informatics, focusing on applications to the nursing profession. Prerequisites: STAT 200, NURS 225, NURS 301, NURS 310, NURS 320, NURS 406.

**NURS 458—Ethical Challenges in Healthcare Informatics—3 SH (3,0)** A case based collaboratory designed for the exploration and analysis of the ethical dilemmas facing healthcare informatics practitioners. Prerequisite: NURS 457

**NURS 464(US;IL)—Dying and Death—3 SH (3,0)** Exploration of attitudes toward death and dying: concept of grief, responsibilities to the dying person and the family. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 or SOC 001.

**NURS 492—Emergency Care and Safety—3 SH (3,0)** A comprehensive first aid course designed to provide knowledge of prehospital emergency care at the First Responder level including an awareness of hazardous materials and disaster planning. Particular emphasis is placed on the critical thinking skills of triage, decision-making, and safety. Cards will be awarded in Emergency Care and CPR for the Professional (Healthcare) Rescuer upon successful completion of the course. Prerequisites: BIOL 129, BIOL 141.

**Variable Credit Independent Study or Special Topic Offerings** (Consult with your adviser regarding these courses.)

**NURS 197—Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 495-Independent Studies. (Clinical)** 1-12 SH

**NURS 296—Independent Studies.** 1-18 SH

**NURS 496-Independent Studies. (Theory)** 1-18 SH

**NURS 297—Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 497-Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 298—Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 498-Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 397—Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

**NURS 499-Foreign Study.** 1-9 IL

**NURS 398—Special Topics.** 1-9 SH

## Suggested General Electives

**BB H 101 (GHA)—Introduction to Biobehavioral Health**—Introduction to an interdisciplinary study of health, examining the interaction of biological processes and behavior on health. 3 SH

**BB H 119 (GHA)—Behavior, Health, and Disease**—Principles of health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses. This course is designed for non-BB H majors. 3 SH

**BIOL 155 (GN)—Introduction to the Biology of Aging**—Examination of human aging from a biological perspective; causes, physiological, and pathological changes and factors that contribute to life prolongation. Students who have passed BIOL 409 may not schedule this course. 3 SH

**H P A 101—Introduction to Health Services Organization**—Examination of the social, political, historic, and scientific factors in the development and organization of health services. 3 SH

**KINES 165—Health Education Concepts**—Principles of healthy living which are the basis for health instruction in schools and health care settings. 3 SH

**PSY 420—Abnormal Psychology**—Causes, dynamics, and symptoms of neuroses, psychoses, behavior disorders, psychosomatic disorders, and mental retardation. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. 3 SH

## C. CLINICAL POLICIES

### Clinical Assignment Policy

Students are assigned to clinical sites on the basis of faculty and site availability to assure that maximum learning will be accomplished for each student in the program. Every effort will be made to accommodate those students who have extenuating needs requiring specific geographic placement. Also, students should be aware that housing costs differ across sites and should prepare for these expenditures. Placement at any particular site cannot be guaranteed and some students **may be assigned to HMC for both the junior and senior year** to facilitate enrollment requirements.

## BS Program Clinical Requirements

All students are required to complete the following documentation **after May 1** and submit to the Office of Academic Affairs (210 HHDE) **by June 30** prior to their sophomore, junior, and senior year(s). All requirements must be current for the entire academic year.

### List of requirements:

1. Health Examination

Entrance Health Examination (sophomore year)

Annual Health Examination (junior and senior years)

2. Malpractice Insurance (\$1,000,000/\$6,000,000)

3. Health Insurance (copy of insurance card or policy)

4. CPR (**ONLY the following is accepted**):

American Heart Association Health Care Provider

5. PA Child Abuse History Clearance (Pennsylvania and non-resident students)

6. Criminal Record Check (facilitated through Certified Background.com)

### **NOTE:**

- 1. A confirmation email will be sent to students meeting all requirements.**
- 2. If the Office of Academic Affairs (210 HHDE) has not received all of the above information by the due date, an academic hold will be placed on the student's account and nursing courses will be dropped until the documentation is complete. Students will be notified via their PSU email of the account hold.**

## Health Examination Policy

The School of Nursing at Penn State subscribes to the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing requirement that every undergraduate nursing student shall have an **Entrance Health Examination**. (See nursing web site: <http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/undergrad/index.html>).

**Note:** Copies of Doctor's records will not be accepted as the health examination. The SON forms must be completed and signed by the health care provider.

**Note:** This is the School's current Health Examination Policy. We are aware that we require more than is required by the State Board of Nursing.

**Note:** Hepatitis B immunization and/or titer may be covered by your health insurance plan. Please check your insurance coverage.

## **Impaired Nursing Policy**

The intent of this Policy is to offer assistance to those who are in need, while sending a clear message that all students enrolled in the School of Nursing at The Pennsylvania State University are strictly prohibited from possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while engaged in any clinical program duties and/or while on the premises of any facility where the student engages in clinical duties. See the BS Handbook for specifics:

<http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/undergrad/BSprogram.html>

## **Cell Phone Policy**

The use of cellular telephones in the clinical setting is prohibited. Clinical settings include all environments utilized in any of the clinical courses: skills laboratory, acute care facilities, sub-acute care and rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, clinics and physician offices, and community resources (i.e. Easter Seals, Head-Start, etc.).

Permission to carry cell phones on vibrate for emergency contacts is up to the discretion of the clinical instructor. Any student wishing to request special permission must discuss their situation with their clinical instructor prior to attending clinical.

The recommendation is that cell phones should not be stored in backpacks, coats, lockers, etc. that are not in secured areas since that increases the risk of theft of the cell phone and other personal items. The safest storage area for cell phones is locked in the student's vehicle during clinical hours.

Students violating the Cell Phone Policy will be remediated accordingly.

Approved: 2/2008

## **Student Pregnancy Policy**

For the safety of the pregnant student, she should be aware of potential risks related to some learning experiences, such as, but not limited to communicable disease[s], strenuous activity, toxic substances including radiation, and the potential for bodily harm. The student should consult with her faculty member prior to the clinical experience to be made aware of any clinical agency policies related to pregnant individuals such as not entering where radiation therapy is being administered. Neither The Pennsylvania State University nor its affiliating clinical agencies assume responsibility for any harm that might occur to a fetus or a pregnant student.

11/30/04

## D. NURSING HONORS PROGRAM

### Schreyer Honors College

The School of Nursing supports the University statement, “The Schreyer’s Honors Program provides academically talented and highly motivated students with meaningful learning experiences that will prepare them to continuously learn, apply, and create new knowledge throughout their lifetimes” (On-line Handbook for Schreyer Scholars, Goals).

The University Senate (April 1, 1980) sets forth guidelines for eligibility and participation. The following are the specified requirements. For additional information about the Schreyer Honors College, please consult the Schreyer Honors College Handbook, which can be found at <http://www.scholars.psu.edu/students/handbook.pdf>.

#### Eligibility

##### Freshman

Freshman Schreyer Scholars are selected through a special application process. Students with excellent SAT I scores, outstanding high school records, and a commitment to serious academic and intellectual pursuits are encouraged to apply. While factors other than SAT weigh heavily in the selection process, the Faculty Selection Committee expects a minimum score of 1350 on the SAT I. Outstanding students with scores below the expected level may still apply.

##### Sophomore

- \* Cumulative GPA 3.6
- \* In-top 10% of the College

##### Junior

- \* Cumulative GPA 3.7 for first three semesters – 3.5 for fourth semester
- \* GPA in the major 3.8

##### Exceptional Students

- \* May be nominated by their major program

This Honors program offers special opportunities to explore areas of nursing of interest to a greater extent and depth. In particular, this Honors program gives students the chance to be directly involved in research. The major component of the Honors program is the writing of an **undergraduate thesis**. Students can select a topic of interest to them, but it is best that they make their topic selections with input from a faculty sponsor. Once a student has been enrolled in the Honors program, the student will be assigned an Honors faculty adviser who will help him/her plan and individualize the program of study through the Annual Academic Plan. **Honors students have priority registration** for all Penn State courses to enable them to maximally take advantage of the University’s academic offerings.

## **GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION/GRADUATION WITH HONORS**

(Senate Policy [88-00](#) as presented at: <http://www.psu.edu/dus/handbook/distinction.html>)

**Graduation with distinction** is awarded to baccalaureate degree candidates with at least 60 credits earned at Penn State who have a minimum of a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average and are in the top 12% of a college's graduating class. This 12% is then divided as follows: 6% "with distinction," 4% "with high distinction," and 2% "with highest distinction."

The grade-point averages required to graduate with distinction vary somewhat as they are recalculated for each graduating class.

**Graduation with honors** is awarded to those students who have fulfilled the requirements of the Schreyer Honors College.

## **E. STUDENT ACTIVITIES/INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

### **Organizations for Nursing Students**

#### **Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP)**

Penn State Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania is an organization for student nurses to support and encourage leadership development. Members participate in state and national conferences, and career fairs. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of community service projects. Dues are \$35 per year that includes Imprint Magazine and newsletters, and all students are encouraged to join.

#### **Health Works**

Health Works is a peer health education volunteer program promoting health lifestyles among Penn State students. This is done through discussions, workshops and counseling. Students interested in this program can contact University Health Services, 201 Student Health Center, or call (814) 863-0461.

#### **Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing**

Students may be eligible for induction into this prestigious Nursing honor society. Membership is invitation-only and is based on academic achievement at the end of the fall semester, senior year. The Penn State Beta Sigma Chapter is one of 431 chapters around the world. Sigma Theta Tau International fosters excellence in nursing through leadership achievement and superior scholarship.

## **Penn State School of Nursing International Opportunities**

### **Ecuador**

Nancy Kashlak, Instructor of Child Health Nursing and a pediatric nurse practitioner, selects two to six senior nursing students to accompany her and other volunteer health professionals on a pediatric cardiac surgery mission to Ecuador. This trip takes place each Fall semester and is about 10 days long. Serving children of Ecuador who would not have access to specialized services, the volunteers provide pediatric care at the children's hospital. Financial sponsorship is available for selected students. Please contact Ms. Kashlak at [nlk5@psu.edu](mailto:nlk5@psu.edu) for more information.

### **Honduras**

The trip to Honduras is part of Shoulder to Shoulder ([www.shouldertoshoulder.org](http://www.shouldertoshoulder.org)). Candace Kugel, a family nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife, leads this trip and selects two to four senior nursing students with input from Penn State Nursing faculty. This Spring or Fall semester trip is about 2 weeks long. Students are responsible for costs of about \$1300. The volunteer Health Brigade assists staff at various rural clinics in Honduras to provide primary and urgent care to surrounding residents. Students will assist in community education on prenatal care, childbirth, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Contact Dr. Falkenstern at [sxf2@psu.edu](mailto:sxf2@psu.edu) or Candace Kugel at [Kugel@migrantclinician.org](mailto:Kugel@migrantclinician.org) for more information.

### **South Africa**

Darlene Clark and other nursing faculty select four senior nursing students to accompany her on the trip to Johannesburg, South Africa. They work in health care clinics in Johannesburg and outlying areas. The trip is two to three weeks long and occurs in the summer. Students are responsible for all costs, which range from \$4000 to \$5000. Because this is a service trip and costs are high, financial assistance may be available from the School of Nursing. Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing, may award funds to students in need as part of the chapter's Global Service Initiative for 2007-2009. Schreyer Honor students may apply for Schreyer Travel Grants. For more information, contact Ms. Clark at [dac128@psu.edu](mailto:dac128@psu.edu).

### **Sweden**

The School of Nursing participates in a student exchange program with the University of Jonkoping, in Jonkoping, Sweden. Four to six junior nursing students are selected by Sharon Falkenstern and Darlene Clark, with input from nursing faculty. The students register for three Penn State credits of Nursing 496, Independent Study, fulfilling the nursing elective requirement. Since the four week course on maternal and newborn health begins the second week of May, students must take Spring semester final exams before departure. Students are responsible for Penn State tuition of three credits, airfare, housing, and food costs, for a total of about \$3000. Students who opt for weekend sightseeing trips will incur additional costs. The Penn State Employee tuition discount applies to tuition. Schreyer Honor students may apply for Schreyer Travel Grants. Contact Dr. Falkenstern at [sxf2@psu.edu](mailto:sxf2@psu.edu) for more information.

## **Student Nurse Policy for International Study**

The School of Nursing welcomes and encourages international experiences for nursing students. The following delineates the Student Nurse Policy for International Study in order to maintain standards for acceptable student experiences.

1. The faculty representative for International Study needs to be notified **prior** to the experience. A faculty person is appointed each year by the Dean of the SON as the international representative and it is the student's responsibility to report to the proper faculty member.
2. The student is required to receive permission from each course coordinator **prior** to the travel.
  - A. Clinical instructors shall be included in the decision to grant permission for the international travel experience whenever possible.
  - B. The course coordinator and the clinical instructor, if appropriate, will determine whether any clinical hours will be granted for the international experience.
  - C. The course coordinator and the clinical instructor, if appropriate, will determine whether any make-up of clinical hours will need to be completed upon return to University classes.
3. Faculty need to be apprised of the following information:
  - A. Where the international experience is located.
  - B. How long the experience will be.
  - C. Who will be supervising the experience.
  - D. In what type of setting will the student be working/observing.  
(i.e. clinic, hospital, etc.)
4. Course faculty have the right to refuse a student permission to travel abroad for an international experience if he/she feels that the student's progress in their course may be compromised by missing class, clinical time, exams, etc.

**Approved 02/06**

## F. OTHER

### Assessment Testing Fees

Costs associated with assessed testing are posted on the student's tuition bill. All students are required to take the tests, which assess student achievement and identify content areas needing further study for successful completion of national licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Students will receive an *Authorization to Charge a Nurse Test Fee to Student Account* form to sign and return (by June 30th of the sophomore year) to the School of Nursing's Office of Academic Affairs (210 Health and Human Development East). The authorization allows posting the fees on the tuition bill, which eliminates a 25% mark-up fee associated with other means of collection.

### Scholarships and Awards

Penn State awards a number of scholarships to undergraduate students each year. In addition, grants, loans, and the College Work-Study program are available for those who qualify. For more information on undergraduate financial aid, contact the Office of Student Aid, 314 Shields Building, University Park, PA 16802-6508, phone: (814) 865-6301, or visit the Web site at: <http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/>

**Listed below are some possible sources of scholarships and financial assistance:**

**ROTC Scholarships.** All branches of the military are located in Wagner Building at the University Park campus and can be contacted for additional information. Air Force: (814) 865-5454; Army: (814) 863-0368; Marines: (814) 865-6289; and Navy: (814) 865-6289.

**The American Association of Colleges of Nursing** often has information on scholarship programs for nursing students. They are located at One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, phone: (202) 463-6930, or visit the World Wide Web home page at: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/financialaid.htm>

**The National League for Nursing** has information on financial aid: 61 Broadway, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10016, phone: (800) 669-1656 or (212) 363-5555, or visit the World Wide Web home page at: <http://www.nln.org/>

**The Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania** has scholarship information. They are located at 500 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7513, phone: (800) 704-8434, or visit the World Wide Web home page at: <http://www.hcwp.org>

**The Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania** has scholarship information. They are located at 2090 Linglestown Road, Suite 107, Harrisburg, PA 17110, phone: (717) 909-0350. Web page at: <http://www.nightingaleawards.org/>

**College of Health and Human Development** has scholarship information. They are located at 215 Henderson Building, University Park, PA 16802, phone: (814) 865-2156. Web page: <http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/scholarships/application.asp>

Many hospitals and other health care institutions offer their own scholarship programs. For example, a hospital offers a tuition stipend with the understanding that a student will commit two or three years of continuous employment following graduation.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Can I substitute other courses for General Education courses?

Possibly, *as long as you get permission*. A course does not necessarily have to be on the Gen Ed list for it to meet a Gen Ed requirement. There are certain situations where substitutions can be made. That does not mean that another student could automatically do the same thing; every substitution has to be approved based on the content of the course, the student's major, and other factors. It is, however, a great way to build more flexibility into the selection of courses that you have for meeting Gen Ed requirements. Please see your adviser to discuss your individual situation.

### 2. What is Quantification?

Quantification is a math requirement. Six credits of math are required and STAT 200 will fulfill one-half of the required credits. You will need an additional math selection to fulfill your nursing prerequisite.

### 3. What is a general elective?

- General electives are courses that students may choose beyond the requirements for general education and the major. If the course has prerequisites, it is important that they be met.
- General electives are not the same as the nursing electives. Nursing electives are chosen from a list of supporting courses and are a requirement for the major.
- Courses that you use to meet general education cannot double count with general electives.

### 4. Can I do a minor?

Most minors are 18 credits. Students can use general electives toward the credit minor requirements. Also, some of your major and general education courses may count as well. It is important that you discuss your intention to do a minor with your adviser early in the program.

### 5. When will I receive my Hershey assignment?

Hershey assignments will be distributed the fall semester of the sophomore year. Students will have the opportunity to request their preferred year but there is no guarantee that request can be honored.

### 6. Where can I find out more information about my program?

See the School of Nursing website: <http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs>