

Western Carolina University
College of Health and Human Sciences
School of Nursing

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
FOR
PRE-NURSING MAJORS**

Supplemental
to
Western Carolina University
Student Handbook
and
The Record
(Undergraduate Catalogue)

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School of Nursing - Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee

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WELCOME and PURPOSE

Thank you for your interest in the Western Carolina University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. This handbook provides general information you will need as you begin your nursing education journey. Further details and clarification may be obtained from nursing faculty and/or staff at either of our offices, listed on the front of this document.

We are excited that you have decided on nursing as a career and wish to pursue the BSN degree. As a **Pre-licensure** student you will write the registered nurse (RN) licensure examination NCLEX upon completion of the program.

The School of Nursing's requirements, policies, and procedures that affect and pertain to you are presented in this Student Handbook for Pre-Nursing Majors. These School requirements, policies, and procedures are in concert with, but may be more rigorous than University requirements, policies, and procedures. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this handbook. However, changes/revisions may be made and applied on any and all matters before the next handbook is published. Therefore, you should contact a nursing faculty member to make certain you have current information.

Again, we welcome your interest in WCU and its Nursing Program. We wish you every success with your academic endeavors. Please feel free to make an appointment to come to the School of Nursing offices to visit. The nursing faculty looks forward to working with you.

Judy Neubrandner, EdD, FNP-BC, CNE
Interim Director, School of Nursing

INTRODUCTION to the NURSING PROGRAM

The North Carolina Legislature, at the urging of Western Carolina University and the people of the western counties, established a baccalaureate program in nursing at WCU in 1969 and appropriated funds for its support. Since that date, over 2000 women and men

have earned the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from WCU. The baccalaureate nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education as well as approved by the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

The **Pre-licensure BSN** program leads to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Upon graduation, Pre-licensure students sit for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing licensure examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN). The **Accelerated Entry Option** enables candidates already holding a baccalaureate degree to complete the requirements for the BSN program over a shorter time-span.

The **RN-to-BSN** program awards the BSN degree to persons with diplomas or associate degrees who currently hold a license to practice as a Registered nurse. See [Nursing Academic Programs](#) under the School of Nursing website for additional information.

Theory classes are conducted in Cullowhee the junior year for Pre-licensure students and at Enka the senior year for Pre-licensure students. Classes for the Accelerated Entry Option are held at Enka. For all programs, clinical nursing experiences are held at health care agencies throughout western North Carolina.

What makes the WCU Nursing program exciting?

- Class size is small enough to be personal, large enough for effective learning and networking.
- Learning environments are diverse and emphasize community. Experiences are provided with acute and chronic care, rural and urban settings, large and small agencies, and multi-ethnic populations.
- Faculty is committed to graduate success on the RN licensing exam (RN-NCLEX).
- Opportunities exist to pursue individual interests: electives, independent study, summer study abroad.
- Transfer students and credits from accredited community, junior, and senior colleges are welcomed for transfer evaluation.
- Our setting in the mountains is beautiful and relatively safe.
- Our costs are highly competitive.
- Our faculty and staff are supportive, caring, and competent.
- Contact with nursing faculty begins with freshman advisement.

ACADEMIC ADVISING and REGISTRATION

All students declaring pre-nursing as a major have an assigned academic advisor from the nursing faculty. If you are participating in other University programs (Honors, Student Support Services), your advisor in that program will also work with you until you enter

the upper-division nursing major. The School of Nursing Administrative Assistant will notify you of your assigned academic advisor. Basic students are advised during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years by full-time faculty in the Cullowhee nursing offices. Full-time faculty in the Enka nursing offices advises basic senior students.

You should make an appointment to see your advisor to gain general program information, before registration, after completing a trial program schedule, and whenever assistance is needed. At the conclusion of each meeting, the advisor will document the advising in the student file, and advisor and student will initial it, indicating that each has read and understood the documentation.

WCU publishes the Schedule of Classes for each semester. It lists important deadlines for pre-registration advisement, registration, filing an application for diploma/graduation, etc. You can view the Schedule online about two weeks prior to each early registration period. You may obtain your permit to register only by scheduling an advisement appointment with your advisor.

Your WCU Academic Advisor will expect you to:

1. Consult the WCU Record and the Schedule of Classes to become familiar with procedures and deadlines. Learn to fill out forms completely and accurately.
2. Schedule an appointment, especially during early registration.
3. Do preliminary planning and course selection prior to the advisor appointment; the later the registration date, the more options in courses and sections should be prepared.
4. Be realistic about course load, complexity of courses selected, and achievements.
5. Make final course selection and do course scheduling after having questions answered in advising appointment. Let advisor know if major problems are encountered (not just a section change).
6. Inform advisor about any academic difficulties IMMEDIATELY.
7. Read all mail from University, College, or School. These letters contain important information about deadlines, registration, procedures, scholarships, and social events.
8. Ask the School of Nursing Director about changing advisors if you feel your assigned advisor is not meeting your needs.
- 9. Remember that the ultimate responsibility for choosing classes, dropping classes, and meeting curriculum and graduation requirements belongs to the student, not the advisor.**

You can expect your WCU Academic Advisor to

1. Post and keep office hours, including expanded schedules for early registration.
2. Help you find answers to questions regarding Liberal Arts and Nursing requirements.
3. Know about university resources and make referrals as needed.
4. Authorize COMPLETED forms.

5. Explain the grade point average, effect of repeats, probation status, the readmission process, and other pathways through the academic jungle.
6. Maintain confidentiality.
7. Suggest alternative courses of study when advisees are not achieving a record of success.

Most nursing faculty are on 9-month appointments with office hours from mid-August through mid-May. While faculty may schedule limited personal times to be in their offices during the summer, most use the summer primarily to do research, writing, consulting, or nursing practice. Usually these tasks require faculty to be away from campus, out of town, or out of the state for extended periods. Therefore, you will find it difficult to schedule meetings with faculty during the summer months.

Undergraduate Prelicensure Curriculum

Freshman Year		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
NSG 101: Intro to Professional Nursing (1) ENGL 101 (C1) (3) HSCC 101: Health & Wellness (C4) (3) CHEM 132 (C5) (4) MATH 130: College algebra (or above) (3) First Year Seminar (3) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 17</div>	CHEM 133 (4) PSYCH 150 (P1) (3) Liberal Studies – two classes: (P1, P3, P4, P5, &/or P6) (6) Elective (3) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 16</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">Total Hours: 33</div>
Sophomore Year		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
ENG 202 (3) COMM 201: Communications (C3) (3) BIOL 291: Anatomy & Physiology I (4) ENVH 260/261: Etiology of Infectious Diseases w/ lab (3) Liberal Studies: (P1, P3, P4, P5, and/or P6) (3) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 16</div>	BIOL 292: Anatomy & Physiology II (4) NSG 346 – Pathophysiology for Nursing (3) ND 338: Normal and Therapeutic Nutrition (3) Liberal Studies: (P1, P3, P4, P5, and/or P6) (6) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 16</div>	*NSG 101, 346, and ND 338 for transfers Elective (3) <div style="text-align: right;">Total Hours: 68</div>
Junior Year		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
NSG 310: Foundations of Nursing (4) NSG 311: Foundations of Nursing Practicum (3) NSG 312: Nursing Assessment across the Lifespan (3) NSG 313: Pharmacotherapeutics in Nursing I (2) NSG 314: Nursing Informatics (1) NSG 325: Nursing Ethics and Health Policy (2) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 15</div>	NSG 320: Concepts of Adult Nursing (3) NSG 321: Adult Nursing Practicum (4) NSG 322: Concepts of Geriatric Nursing (2) NSG 323: Pharmacotherapeutics in Nursing II (2) NSG 324: Evidence Based Nursing Practice (2) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 13</div>	Intern/Externships Co-op, Travel course, or other electives <div style="text-align: right;">Total Hours: 96</div>
Senior Year		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
NSG 410: Concepts of Adult Nursing II (4) NSG 411: Adult Nursing II Practicum (4) NSG 412: Concepts of Maternal-Child Nursing (3) NSG 413: Maternal-Child Nursing Practicum (3) NSG 414: Advanced Technology & Pharmacotherapeutics in Nursing (2) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: 16</div>	NSG 420: Synthesis of NSG Concepts (2) NSG 421: Synthesis of NSG Concepts Practicum (4) (to include 120 transition to practice hours and 48 leadership practicum hours) NSG 422: Concepts of Community/Mental Health NSG (4) NSG 423: Concepts of Community/Mental Health NSG Practicum (4) NSG 424: Concepts of NSG Leadership in Management (2) <div style="text-align: right;">Hours: ~16</div>	<div style="text-align: right;">Total Program Hours: 128</div>

The curriculum plan for the **Accelerated Entry Option**, available to applicants with a current baccalaureate degree, is pre-determined. Interested applicants are referred to the School of Nursing web pages (<http://www.wcu.edu/4193.asp>) for detailed information.

ADMISSION to the UPPER-DIVISION NURSING MAJOR

Applicants who are not currently enrolled as a WCU student must first apply for admission to the university. Once this process has been initiated application may be made to the Nursing program. Formal completion of the application process to WCU may take as long as six weeks. Candidates for admission are encouraged to file the WCU application in a timely manner.

General Requirements for traditional schedule pre-licensure student:

To be eligible to apply to the upper-division nursing major, all students must have...

- attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on all previous undergraduate college work as reported by the institutions attended for traditional pre-licensure students, *and*
- completed or be in the process of completing all program requirements (CHEM 132, CHEM 133, BIOL 291, BIOL 292, ENVH 260/261, PSY 150, NSG 101*, and NSG 346) with grades of 2.00 or better, *and*
- completed at least 3 of the 5 required science courses by the application deadline (CHEM 132 and 133, BIOL 291 and 292, and HSCC 260) or appropriate equivalents and have official grade reports (including transfer credits) processed by WCU.
- completed or be in the process of completing at least 60 semester hours of work applicable to the WCU degree.
- completed or be in the process of completing all Liberal Studies CORE (ENGL 101, ENGL 102, MATH 130 or higher, COMM 201, HEAL 123, or HSCC 101 or HSCC 111) before the beginning of the fall semester for which the application is submitted.
- completed SAT Critical Reading with a score of 500 or higher with a report submitted to WCU by the application deadline or clearly stated on an official transcript from high school or another post-secondary institution. Applicants may retake the SAT Critical Reading, but no more than the first two post-secondary attempts will be considered. Only the SAT will be used by the School of Nursing; ACT or GRE scores cannot be substituted. Applicants who have never written the SAT must take it and have the scores reported to WCU by the time of application.
- completed the Test of Essential Academic Skills version V (TEAS V) with the score reported to WCU by the application deadline. TEAS V may be taken only one time during an admission cycle. An admission cycle begins with the deadline for the previous cycle and ends with the deadline for the current application cycle. .Additional information about the TEAS exam may be found at:
www.atitesting.com/global/students/teas.aspx .

Admission to the upper-division nursing major is highly competitive. Applicants are ranked for admission based on overall cumulative collegiate GPA (25%), verbal SAT score (25%), and their performance on a standardized admission test (50%). Specific information regarding registration for the standardized admission test is included with the application packet.

* Students are required to earn a minimum grade of 3.0 for NSG 101 prior to admission to the program. Students are permitted only one repeat of NSG 101 for grade replacement.

With the exceptions of NSG 101 and NSG 364, no student may take required NSG courses until admitted to the major.

Applications are accepted twice a year; in January of the sophomore year for admission to the program in the following fall semester, and in September for admission in the following spring semester. Applications are available online on the School of Nursing web site (http://www.wcu.edu/4201.asp#Undergraduate_Pre-Licensure_Options) by mid- to late November. **The deadline for receipt of the application is also posted on the website.** Completed applications must be received with all supporting materials no later than the deadline.

Accelerated Entry Option

The accelerated entry option is designed for students who hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution. Admission to the ABSN program is highly selective. Selection criteria for admission is based on:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 from all postsecondary undergraduate work
- Performance on a standardized entry exam
- Interview with Accelerated Entry Option Admissions Committee

General Requirements for Accelerated Entry Option.

To be eligible to apply to the Accelerated Entry Option (AEO) students must :

- Hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on all previous undergraduate college work as reported by the institutions
- Completed or be in the process of completing all program requirements (CHEM 132, CHEM 133, BIOL 291, BIOL 292, ENVH 260/261, PSY 150, with grades of 2.00 or better
- Must have completed at least 2 of the 5 required science courses by the application deadline: CHEM 132 and 133, BIOL 291 and 292, and HSCC 260, or appropriate equivalents and have official grade reports (including transfer credits) processed by WCU. Applicants must submit a plan for completion of ALL prerequisites prior to beginning the AEO.

More detailed information regarding admissions criteria is posted on the [School of Nursing web site](#).

SCHOOL of NURSING POLICIES that apply to PRE-NURSING MAJORS

Core Competencies Necessary for Students to Achieve Program Outcomes

It is the policy of the SON and the College of Health and Human Sciences to adhere to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students admitted to the SON are expected to be able to complete curriculum requirements which include physical, cognitive, communication and behavioral core competencies that are essential to the functions of the professional nurse. These core competencies are considered to be the minimum and essential necessary to protect the public. An applicant for any of the degree programs in Nursing must be competent in the following areas: observation, communication, motor, and intellectual-conceptual. An applicant must meet the competencies in spite of any handicap with or without reasonable accommodation.

Examples of competencies for each of the areas follow. Note that these descriptions are intended to be examples rather than all-inclusive.

- **Observation:** The applicant must be able to observe a client accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation relies on the functional use of vision and touch, enhanced by the sense of smell.
- **Communication:** The applicant should be able to speak, hear, and to observe clients to obtain information, describe changes and perceive non-verbal communication. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with clients and peers. Communication includes speech, writing, and reading. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with clients, families, peers and other members of the health care team.
- **Motor:** An applicant should have sufficient motor function to obtain information from clients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment techniques. The applicant should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to perform general care and emergency treatment of clients such as (but not limited to) cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medications, and manipulation of life support devices. These actions require coordination of both gross and fine motor muscular movements, equilibrium, functional use of the senses of touch and vision, and the ability to think critically.
- **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** The applicant must be able to demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills required of nurses. Essential intellectual abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis.

The SON makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To

receive academic accommodations, students must contact Student Support Services at 137 Killian Annex (phone 227-7127). The letter received from this office, documenting required accommodations, should be presented to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Information regarding Student Support Services is available on the web at: <http://www.wcu.edu/49.asp> .

A student applying for admission to the nursing program is not required to disclose any disability prior to admission. After the student has been admitted, the student will receive a packet of information which will also include a statement to be signed by the student that the student is capable of meeting the core competencies. This statement will become part of the student's record.

Policy regarding full-time/part-time student status (Basic students)

Basic students are admitted to the upper-division nursing major on a full-time basis and should complete the program in four academic semesters (with summers as needed for electives). Students who take longer to graduate may be penalized by the University of North Carolina's tuition surcharge policy. Being full-time in the fall semester of the junior year commits the student to taking approximately 15-18 semester hours (unless course substitutes have been approved). Students will spend approximately 23 hours a week in classroom, laboratory, or clinical settings PLUS at least another 36 hours a week in reading, writing, and other preparations. Students should plan to work for pay no more than 20 hours a week (10 would be better), and those hours should be flexible. Students with families should establish guidelines to accommodate the student's need to study. Commuters to Cullowhee will experience additional driving time demands. Clinical courses and their corresponding classroom courses must be taken together in the same semester (NSG 310/311, 320/321, 410/411, 412/413, 420/421, 422/423).

All withdrawals must be made in accordance with the University's policies and calendar. Exceptions will be made for students called to active duty in the United States military services.

Composition Condition (CC) and Oral Composition Condition (OCC)

The School of Nursing conforms to WCU policy regarding CC and OCC marks (see the University catalog, The Record). Students who are required under this policy to take ENGL 300 or CMHC 300 must enroll in and complete that course in the semester immediately following the receipt of the CC or OCC marks. Noncompliance will make the student ineligible for further enrollment in NSG courses.

Transfer of Upper-Division Nursing Credits

Once students have started clinical coursework in a BSN program, we strongly encourage them to continue in that program. No two curricula are alike, and students are likely to suffer some loss of credit on transfer to WCU. In addition, any student seeking a WCU BSN must take at least 32 hours of upper-division credit from WCU.

However, some students find compelling personal reasons to transfer to WCU. According to *The Record*, p. 61, "the applicability of transferred credits toward degree requirements is determined by the Registrar's Office and the department head of the

student's major. In some cases, due to accreditation standards, validation of a course by successful completion of more advanced work in the same discipline or by examination may be required." The work must have been done at an institution "accredited by a nationally-recognized regional accrediting agency." Nursing credits must also come from a program accredited by a national agency, either NLN-AC or CCNE.

The Record goes on to note that "there is no time limit on the course work accepted for undergraduate transfer credit. However, students who plan to schedule courses with stated prerequisites should consider auditing the prerequisite courses if no work has been attempted in the field within the past five years." For the upper-division nursing major at WCU, no more than a year should have elapsed since the last clinical course, and we may require evidence that clinical skills have remained current through employment. The student must also go through the regular admissions process to the major and have met all of the prerequisites. There must be an available seat in the cohort the student is joining.

For faculty to evaluate the nature of transferred upper-division nursing courses, the student must submit course materials, including syllabus, learning packet, and any papers returned to the student. **A grade of C or better must have been earned in each course.** Nursing faculty who teach the comparable course at WCU will peruse these materials and make recommendations to the Director of the School of Nursing. The student may be required to enroll for one or more hours of Independent Study during the term the comparable course is taught at WCU in order to attend lecture, seminar, laboratory, or clinical experiences that may be missing in the transferred course.

Credit by Examination

Credit by examination is another option for students wishing to "place out" of upper-division nursing courses. The WCU policy set forth in *The Record* is adhered to by the School of Nursing. Students who want to try this option should contact the Instructor of Record at least 30 days before the term starts to obtain course materials. The examination will be comprehensive, based on course objectives, and may contain both written and simulation components. Each examination attempted must be completed prior to the first class meeting in that course, so that if credit is not earned, the student may progress by taking the course as offered.

Medical Terminology Competency

The Curriculum Committee of the School of Nursing strongly recommends that all basic nursing students who have not taken a medical terminology course for credit work through a medical terminology workbook **prior** to beginning nursing courses. Students will be responsible for all terminology in each nursing course. See your advisor for recommendations for books or resources related to medical terminology.

Criminal Background Check

Beginning August 1, 2010, all nursing students must complete an approved criminal background check prior to beginning clinical activity. Student criminal background checks are required by many of the clinical agencies which partner with the School of Nursing. Students admitted to any School of Nursing program which includes a clinical

site practicum must submit results of the background check prior to the first scheduled class day of the semester to which they have been admitted. Students are responsible for all fees and costs related to completion of the criminal background check.

In the event that a clinical agency denies placement to a student based on the result of a criminal background check, the student will not be eligible to complete the clinical course and will not progress in the program. Failure to complete a criminal background check in accordance with this policy will result in failure to progress in the program or denial of enrollment in the program,

Alcohol and Illegal Drug Testing Policy

The School of Nursing enforces the *Alcohol and Illegal Drug Testing Policy* of the College of Health and Human Services. The policy may be reviewed in its entirety in Appendix D of the *Undergraduate Student Handbook for Nursing Majors*. The policy provides for drug testing upon entry to the Nursing major, when required by clinical agencies, and when there is reasonable suspicion of drug and/or alcohol abuse on the part of a student. Students who exhibit chemically impaired behavior in the classroom or clinical setting, or who violate state or federal law governing alcohol and drugs, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Program.

Appeals Procedure for the School of Nursing

The University procedure for academic appeals may be found in the current *WCU The Record*. Students may consult with their faculty advisor or any other faculty member during the appeals procedure. In the event that either party plans to bring another person to any conference, she/he must let the other party know in advance who that person is and why that person is being included. All appeals must be brought within 10 working days.

Both students and faculty should keep statements during an appeal objective and focused on the issue, and avoid raising extraneous issues. The student must put in writing what she/he is asking the faculty to do and why such action is desirable. This becomes the issue of the appeal, and its content should not be changed during the process. Both parties may, by mutual agreement, invite a third party to serve during conferences as a recorder/clarifier, whose only function will be to give feedback and help keep the discussion focused on the issue.

The process to appeal a School of Nursing policy is first to the School Student Affairs Committee, through its chairperson. If the issue is still not resolved, the next level of appeal is to the SON Associate Director for Undergraduate Programs. The next level of appeal is to the Director of the SON, and then to the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. See University policies for further procedures for appeals beyond the College level.

School of Nursing policies have been established to protect student rights and to protect the public from receiving unsafe or unethical care. Students who are dissatisfied with these policies have a channel to recommend changes through elected representatives to the Student Affairs Committee.

How to write a logical and persuasive appeal.

- *State the facts. Cite dates, times, witnesses, etc.*
- *Refer to published documents to support your case (university policies, School policies, course syllabi, etc.).*
- *State what needs to be changed, and why, and suggest a possible positive solution.*
- *Use respectful language and a professional manner; be assertive rather than aggressive.*
- *Use the chain of appeal outlined above. Administrators involved prematurely will refer the student back to the appropriate level.*

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT in ORGANIZATIONS

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to become involved in governance within WCU as described in the University's student handbook. Organizations offer a wide variety of activities and learning experiences, as well as the opportunity to develop leadership skills and a peer network. Numerous activities offer nursing students the opportunity to find their own niche in the School of Nursing and in pre-professional and professional groups. You are encouraged to get involved in one (or more) of the following:

Association of Nursing Students (ANS)

The Association of Nursing Students (ANS) at Western Carolina University is a pre-professional organization patterned after its parent organization, the American Nurses Association. Basic students are strongly encouraged to join and participate at the local (WCU ANS), state (NCANS), and national levels (NANS) of the Association of Nursing Students. The purpose of the associations is to promote professionalism through leadership opportunities, professional contacts, networking, and applied learning. Students are welcome at NCNA district and state meetings.

The WCU Association of Nursing Students is open to all Basic pre-nursing and nursing majors. Yearly dues provide membership at the national, state, and local level. In addition to the membership benefits inherent in the association's purpose, members receive five issues of *Imprint*, the official magazine for nursing students; a state newsletter; involvement in community activities; and reduced rates for the semi-annual state conventions.

American/North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA)

The NC Nurses Association is open to all registered nurse students. Yearly dues provide membership at the national, state, and local level. In addition to the membership benefits inherent in the association's purpose, members receive six issues of *Tar Heel Nurse*, the official magazine for NC RNs; *The American Nurse*, a national newsletter; continuing education opportunities; involvement in community activities; and reduced rates for the annual state convention.

Eta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing

The purposes of Sigma Theta Tau are to recognize superior achievement, recognize the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. The honor society is open to all seniors, graduates, and community leaders by invitation. Students are eligible for nomination after completing at least half of their nursing courses. However, only the top 35% of the class are invited to membership.

Other Honor Societies. There are other groups on campus that may be specific to individual interests. The broadest are Alpha Lambda Delta (freshmen), Mortar Board (seniors), and Phi Kappa Phi (first cousin to Phi Beta Kappa). If you receive an invitation to join any of these organizations, we encourage you to accept it.

Nurses' Christian Fellowship

Nurses' Christian Fellowship provides an opportunity for nursing students, faculty, and staff to share spiritual concerns from a Christian perspective. The group is loosely organized, and each class can determine the meeting times and goals that would best meet the needs of the members. Membership is open to any interested nursing student, faculty, or administrator.

Visiting Scholars, Professional Meetings, & Selected University Events

When the School of Nursing is involved in extracurricular events, there will be opportunities for students to participate. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to participate in the professional or social life of the School, College, and University.

SCHOLARSHIPS, LOANS, and GRANTS

Financial Assistance

Various financial resources, e.g., work study, grants, and loans, including the NC Nurse Education Scholarship Loan Program (NESLP), are available to nursing majors. Apply for financial assistance by contacting the WCU Financial Aid Office. Financial aid recipients are expected to comply with the guidelines established by each specific granting or loaning agency.

Scholarships

Most scholarships are contingent upon funding from outside sources. Recipients are expected to comply with the guidelines established by each specific funding agency or private donor. Generally, a scholarship award pays, or contributes a portion of, the cost of tuition and fees. In most cases, eligibility criteria are provided in the scholarship application guidelines; however, most scholarship awards stipulate that recipients must meet the nursing program progression requirements and maintain at least a 3.00 GPA to retain eligibility for scholarship assistance.

The intent of most scholarship awards is to allow students to devote full-time attention to nursing study, to complete their program in the shortest time possible, and to remain in the nursing profession or join the work force at the earliest possible date. The following provides information about some of the scholarships available to WCU pre-nursing and nursing majors. Please contact the WCU Admissions Office for additional scholarship information and/or assistance.

WCU: To learn about scholarships available to all qualified WCU students, contact the WCU Admissions Office.

School of Nursing Scholarships:

Andrea Culpepper Scholarship: The award is given in memory of Andrea Culpepper, BSN Class of 1986. The scholarship fund was established through the generosity of Andrea's family and friends. The recipient must be a senior Basic nursing major, have at least a 3.00 GPA, provide two professional nursing references addressing his or her potential for successfully completing the senior year and practicing as a professional nurse, and demonstrate a financial need. An award of approximately \$400-\$500 is available to assist with the payment of tuition, book rental, or other required fees. Individuals meeting the criteria and desiring to be considered for the award should secure an application from the program Administrative Support Assistant .

The Mary Kay Kneedler Award: Mrs. Kneedler was the originator of the WCU SON. She and her late husband have designated this award, in the amount of approximately \$1,000 per academic year, generally divided between two Basic senior students. The Cullowhee Administrative Support Assistant can supply eligibility information and applications.

Antonio Bonarrigo Scholarship Information: Born in Salem, New Jersey in 1927, Antonio Bonarrigo served in the US Army during World War II. He was hospitalized several times afterwards because of his experiences during the war. He was a very reclusive person but kept his job and worked faithfully. After his father died he took care of his mother until she passed away. He was a hardworking man who was devoted to his family. He died in 2001 at the age of 73.

Alumnus Nicholas Bonarrigo, Class of 1950 in agreement with The Western Carolina University Foundation has established an endowed fund in memory of his brother, Antonio Bonarrigo, to provide scholarship support for deserving nursing students attending Western Carolina University.

Awards of approximately \$500 each are available to assist two full-time pre-licensure nursing students with the payment of tuition, book rental, or other required fees.

Health Care Agency: Some western North Carolina health care agencies provide scholarships and/or tuition reimbursement programs for their employees enrolled in nursing programs. Information about employer scholarships/tuition reimbursement is available usually from the personnel office of the agency.

NC Nurse Scholars Program: This program, funded by the North Carolina Legislature in 1989, awards up to \$5,000 a year for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing education. The \$5,000 award usually begins in the recipient's freshman year and is renewable for up to 4

years. The program also awards up to \$3,000 a year for rising non-RN juniors to pursue baccalaureate nursing studies (renewable up to 2 years) and up to \$3,000 a year to RNs accepted to enter a BSN program for full-time study. Eligibility criteria include a minimum of an overall 3.00 GPA, North Carolina residency, and high SAT scores. Information is available from WCU's Financial Aid Office, the School of Nursing or the NC Nurse Scholars Website at www.CFNC.org or by telephone at 1-800-600-3453

NC Nurse Education Scholarship Loan Program: This program, funded by the North Carolina Legislature in 1991, provides loans to those nursing majors demonstrating a need for additional financial assistance after other alternatives have been explored. To be considered for this program, a pre-nursing or nursing student must complete a financial need statement and apply for assistance through WCU's Financial Aid Office. If funds are allocated by the Legislature for this loan program, the loan offers are made early in the fall semester.

ESTIMATED REQUIRED EXPENSES FOR THE UPPER-DIVISION MAJOR -
In addition to tuition & fees, room & board, and parking

These are estimated expenses. Many variables affect some of these costs during the year (i.e. gas prices)

Transportation to clinical sites (private vehicle) per semester	\$200-350
Books, software, classroom/lab supplies	\$~1200-1500
Uniforms, include WCU name pin (\$3) and arm patches (@ \$5)	\$50-300
Professional liability insurance (\$1million/\$3million), per year	\$~40/Basic
Student Health Form, including exam, testing, vaccinations	\$100-500
CPR certification/renewal annually	\$0-25
Professional equipment (Basic - stethoscope, BP cuff, etc.)	\$100-150
ATI (NCLEX-RN preparation & review package)	~ \$324/year
PDA (hand held computer)	~ \$400
Certification/licensure fees in North Carolina:	
Nurse Aide I	\$92
Nurse Aide II	\$24
RN license (initial cost - subject to change per NCBON)	\$275
Graduation fee	\$30
Health insurance	\$500+

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

Copier fee	\$10-100
Computer (required of freshman)	\$1500+
Membership in Association of Nursing Students (Basic students)	\$35/yr
Or North Carolina Nurses Association (RNs)	\$112.50/yr
Meetings, journals, continuing education	\$0-250
Membership in Sigma Theta Tau honor society, if invited	\$80
NCLEX-RN review book or course	\$40-400
Commencement: cap/gown/tassel	\$15
If desired: WCU nursing pin, pictures, invitations, ring, etc.	\$0-500