Western Carolina University | School of Nursing

RN to BSN Curriculum

The Introductory Block: 1st semester

Foundations in nursing, the sciences, and the humanities are used to demonstrate knowledge and skills needed for the practice of professional nursing for clients of various ages and with a variety of health problems and nursing care needs.

NSG 301: Professional Transitions in Nursing (3 hrs): Professional Transitions in Nursing is about the development of the profession and of professional nurse roles and the processes through which they are conducted. Students deepen their understanding of and skill in using selected processes (group, teaching/learning), for implementing professional roles. Nursing's historical, legal, political, philosophical, theoretical, and ethical bases are examined in the context of the health care delivery system.

NSG 398: APA Writing Style and Format (1 hr): Writing style and formatting as outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and applied to nursing papers. Course overview: A study of research process and design as foundational for critical reading and clinical application of nursing research.

NSG 399: Clinical Update for RNs (2 hr): Students demonstrate and provide documented evidence of satisfactory level of competence in basic professional nursing knowledge and skills. Evidence Based Practice is the theme of this course.

Community Health Block: 2nd or 3rd Semester

The community health block of three courses introduces students to the theory and practice of community/public health.

NSG 302: Community Health Nursing I: Theory (3 hrs): This course provides a foundational study of community health emphasizing population health and wellness promotion in a variety of settings.

NSG 384: Community Health Nursing II: Practicum (2 hrs): Students acquire knowledge in the practice of community/public health nursing by completing 60 clinical hours: a maximum of 20 virtual clinic hours and a minimum of 40 onsite precepted hours in a community health facility.

NSG 305: Community Health Nursing III: Intervention Project (1 hr): Students work in groups to explore a current population-based health concern and develop a nursing-based education intervention to address the concern.

Western Carolina University | School of Nursing

Nursing Leadership Block: 2nd or 3rd Semester

The three courses in the Leadership Block introduce students to theory, management and leadership roles and functions:

NSG 460: Leadership Theory I: (3 hrs): NSG 460: This course provides a foundational understanding of nursing management and organizations.

NSG 483: Leadership Practicum II: (2 hrs): NSG 483: Students acquire knowledge of nursing leadership by completing 60 practicum hours with a minimum of 40 on-site precepted hours in an approved site and maximum of 20 virtual hours.

NSG 484: Leadership Intervention Project III: (1 hr): Students complete a leadership intervention project that is evidence-based to address a leadership issue at the site.

Nursing Research Block: Final Semester

The three courses in the research block are designed to provide the baccalaureate nursing student with an introduction to evidence-based practice.

NSG 471, Nursing Research I: Research Process (2 hrs): is a foundational study of research design and process, primarily textbook and lecture instruction with objective tests of new knowledge.

NSG 472, Nursing Research II: Critical Reading (2 hrs): builds on the foundation as students are introduced to critical reading of published literature. Students also participate in a weekly online journal club.

NSG 473, Nursing Research III: Clinical Application (2 hrs): continues the study of published nursing research literature with an emphasis on clinical practice application.

The semester culminates in the development of a two-part evidence-based practice project that students can use to change a specific nursing practice issue in the clinical arena.

All baccalaureate programs, including RN to BSN programs, must provide practice experiences for all students (these experiences include many components to achieve baccalaureate knowledge). We feel these skills are better learned in the practice environment. Please read this white paper for more expectations for practicum experiences in a RN to BSN curriculum.

It is difficult to say how much time per week is needed but generally it is good for a student to permit at least **3** hours for each credit hour.