

RN-BSN Program

Program Director:

Phyllis LeBlanc, PhD, RN

The RN-BSN program is recognized by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN), 5207 Essen Lane, Suite 6, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, (225) 763-3570, and is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 61 Broadway, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10006, (800) 669-1656, ext. 153

Purpose

The purpose of the Our Lady of the Lake College RN-BSN Program is to provide registered nurses with a broad educational foundation and the opportunity to obtain the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. This program of study prepares the student for professional leadership roles, career enhancement, and graduate study in nursing. It expands upon the knowledge and skills essential to practice in a rapidly changing health care environment.

The program is flexible and student-oriented. It is designed for registered nurses who hold an associate degree or diploma in nursing and wish to further their education on a part-time basis while continuing employment. The RN-BSN Program reflects the values and philosophy of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady.

Objectives

Upon completion of the RN-BSN Program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Integrate spiritual, cultural, and developmental concepts and values in providing and managing care for clients;
2. Synthesize knowledge from the humanities, biopsychosocial and nursing sciences in providing and managing nursing care;
3. Use management/ leadership skills and knowledge of the socio-political system in providing comprehensive, therapeutic nursing care;
4. Use the nursing process to provide nursing care for clients, groups, and communities;
5. Collaborate with clients, groups, communities, and other health care providers in the delivery of health care;
6. Incorporate findings from nursing and health-related research in promoting health and in the delivery of nursing care;
7. Participate in the delivery of health services by functioning in nursing roles necessary to meet the needs of a changing society;
8. Practice within the profession's legal and ethical boundaries to meet the health care needs of the clients, groups, and communities;
9. Assume responsibility for continuing personal, professional, and educational development necessary to function in a rapidly changing health care environment.

Admission Criteria

1. Completion of a diploma or associate degree in nursing
2. Complete RN-BSN Program Application
3. Current Registered Nurse licensure (Applicants who have not yet obtained RN licensure may be accepted on a provisional basis for one semester.)
4. Transfer credit for courses from other accredited institutions and credit-by-examination will be accepted according to College policy

Application Process

Students may apply for admission to the RN-BSN program during the last semester of enrollment in an RN program (ASN or diploma), or after completion of an RN program. Applicants are encouraged to apply by March 15th for the summer or the fall admission and by September 15th for spring admission. Currently, there is no selective admission process; however, early application may be required in order for the student to pre-register for courses with limited enrollments.

Admission Decisions

Full acceptance into the RN-BSN program is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a diploma or an associate's degree in nursing, upon possessing a current unencumbered Registered Nurse license and upon meeting all other College admission requirements.

Provisional acceptance into the RN-BSN program is awarded for those applicants who have not yet completed the RN program of study and/or obtained RN licensure. Provisional acceptance is granted for one semester only (fall, spring, or summer). Students must meet full acceptance criteria for second semester enrollment in the RN-BSN program.

The student's acceptance letter into the RN-BSN program will direct them to contact the Program Director for academic advising. Students must see an academic advisor prior to enrolling in the first semester of the RN-BSN program and prior to enrolling in the last semester of the program.

Credit for Credit by Examination

Students who wish to take an examination for credit rather than take N320 (Pathophysiology) or N330 (Health Assessment) course (s) will:

1. Pre-register for the course.
2. Notify the Director of the RN-BSN program of your intent to write the examination no later than December 1st for spring exams and May 1st for the fall exam.
3. Be charged the same fees and tuition as for the course. Fees are payable prior to writing the exam.
4. Be given the challenge exam the week prior to the beginning of class.
5. Be awarded credit for the course upon successful completion of the exam.
6. Will receive a "P" on his/her transcript after passing the challenge exam.

Curriculum Plan for the RN-BSN Program (*)			
Arts and Science Courses			
Course	Number	Title	Credit Hours
CSCI	100	Introduction to Computers	3
ENGL	102	English II	3
ENGL/SPCH	200 Level or Above	English 200 level of above Speech	3
HIST	101 or 103	History Course	3
MATH	252	General Statistics	3
PHIL/MATH	200 Level or above	Philosophy or Math, 200 level or higher	3
RELS	300 Level or Above	Religion 300 level or higher	3
Elective	Unrestricted	Arts & Science	3
Elective	300 Level or Above	Arts & Science	3
Total			27
Nursing Courses			
Course	Number	Title	Credit Hours
NURS	300	Research in Nursing	3
NURS	320	Pathophysiology	3
NURS	330	Health Assessment	3
NURS	342	Leadership Principles in Nursing	3
NURS	400	Community Nursing	5
NURS	430	Nursing in the 21 st Century	3
NURS	410 or 440	Gerontology or Independent Study	3
Total			50

(*) Note: All RN-BSN students must complete all of the Arts and Sciences courses required for the ASN program. (See curriculum plan for Associate of Science Degree in Nursing)

Total Hours for Associate of Science Degree in Nursing	71-72
Credit Hours	
Arts and Sciences Courses (RN-BSN Program)	
27 Credit Hours	
Nursing Courses (RN-BSN Program)	
<u>23 Credit Hours</u>	
Total Hours for Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing	121-122
Credit Hours	

Requirements for Graduation

1. Complete one hundred twenty-one or one hundred twenty-two (121-122) credit hours in the required courses
2. Complete RN-BSN nursing courses within seven years.
3. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher on all college work.
4. Complete an "Intent to graduate form"
5. Fulfill the residency requirement of 36 hours for the BS degree. Students who have received an associate degree from OLOLC must meet the dual degree requirements to qualify for a BSN. See dual degree requirements.
6. Clearance of all indebtedness to the College.

NURS 300. Research in Nursing Practice. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: MATH 252; ENGL 102. This course explores a broad range of methods of disciplined inquiry within nursing and establishes a basis for research in nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on analyzing the research process and critiquing published research. Appropriate methods of analysis used in research are presented and data analysis techniques are applied to published research articles.

NURS 320. Pathophysiology: A Basis for Nursing Care. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: ENGL 102
Emphasis is on the physiological manifestations which are the result of pathophysiologic processes. Clinical situations are utilized to incorporate critical thinking, interpretation of data, indicated nursing care, and expected patient outcomes. The course builds upon and expands previous nursing knowledge and knowledge gained in anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and nutrition.

NURS 330. Health Assessment. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: ENGL 102. This course prepares the student to use assessment tools and techniques in determining the health status of clients across the lifespan. Students will apply knowledge from health and social sciences and will utilize the critical thinking process as a method to identify appropriate nursing interventions. The course is designed to provide opportunities for enhancing competency in assessment skills, interpretation of diagnostic data, and determination of nursing interventions.

NURS 342. Leadership Principles in Nursing . Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: ENGL 102 Co Requisite: NURS 300. This course provides the student with knowledge and skills to function as a nursing leader and/or manager within a dynamic practice environment. Concepts of leadership, group dynamics, power, problem-solving, change, conflict, and ethical decision-making are addressed from a nursing perspective. Managerial functions such as staffing, performance appraisal, delegation, communication, team building, planning, and budget preparation are introduced. Issues such as regulatory constraints, professional liability, and quality of care are also explored. **NOTE: This course cross registers with HSER 350.**

NURS 400. Community Nursing. Credit Hours: 5 (3 theory, 2 clinical). Pre-requisites: 300 level nursing courses, or with approval of the Program Director. Community Health Nursing focuses on historical perspective, political, health care systems, epidemiology, and nursing care of specific target groups. Health promotion and protection activities are emphasized as they relate to families, aggregates, and communities. Diverse roles of the community health nurse are examined and a community assessment is completed using research and data processing skills. A clinical practicum provides an opportunity to participate in health promotion activities within the community.

NURS 410. Gerontology. Credit Hours:3. Pre-requisites: 300 level nursing courses, or with approval of the Program Director. This course focuses upon the concept of successful aging and is designed to enhance the nurse's awareness of the needs and potentials of the older adult. The course analyzes the sociological, psychological, and physiological aspects of aging. Students will explore theories of aging, chronic and acute problems of the aging client, available community resources, and issues impacting health promotion of the older adult.

NURS 430. Nursing in the 21st Century. Credit Hours: 3. Pre-requisites: 300 level nursing courses, or with approval of the Program Director. This course explores the changing health care system, its impact upon patient care and relevance to nursing practice. Factors contributing to health care changes in the 21st century will be examined and the nurse's role as patient advocate will be analyzed.

NURS 440. Independent Study. Credit Hours: 1-3. Pre-requisites: 300 level nursing courses, or with approval of the Program Director. This course offers the student an opportunity for an individualized concentrated nursing practicum in an area related to the student's special interest. The student, in