DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

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Programs Of The Department

Nursing is both an art and a science with an evolving body of specialized knowledge derived from nursing research, as well as from the synthesis of knowledge from related disciplines. Nursing, independently or collaboratively, guides and influences the behavior of others in their efforts toward optimizing the health status of individuals, families, groups and communities.

Towson offers a program in professional nursing leading to the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Nursing. The Nursing curriculum includes courses in the liberal arts, the sciences and nursing. The curriculum, designed for basic and registered nurse students, prepares the graduate to accept responsibility and accountability for the care of clients and families in a variety of health care settings, to function in beginning leadership roles, and to be consumers of and participants in nursing research. Students are also provided with the foundation for graduate study in nursing.

The Nursing Program is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing, and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Basic students graduating from the Nursing major are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The Department of Nursing holds membership in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and the Council on Collegiate Education in Nursing of the Southern Regional Education Board.

Academics Standards

Students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50 to enroll in nursing courses in the major. A grade of 2.00 or higher in both the theory and clinical components in each nursing course is required, in addition to maintaining a 2.50 overall GPA.

Students entering or re-entering the program are expected to earn the standard score established by the Department of Nursing on the designated Educational Testing Exam during their senior year, second term, in order to be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination required for licensure.

The Nursing Student Handbook provides additional information concerning department policies and is distributed upon enrollment in the major.

Special Financial Obligations

All students in the Nursing major are required to:

- maintain current and active CPR certification through an approved course
- carry student nurse professional liability insurance
- carry hospitalization insurance including accident and/or emergency benefits
- purchase departmental uniforms and equipment (approximately $700 for basic students and $200 for RN students)
- provide their own transportation to and from clinical setting and between clinical facilities
- assume financial responsibility for expenses related to the required physical examination, laboratory/screening tests and clinical document tracking

Students accepted to and enrolled in the Nursing major are charged a fee of $150.00-$152.50 per term to cover the costs of Educational Testing Examinations which are administered at the end of each term. The fees will be attached to clinical courses at the junior level and at the senior level. If any clinical courses are repeated, the student will be charged an additional $150.00-$152.50. Students accepted to and enrolled in the Nursing major are charged a one-time fee not to exceed $250 to cover the costs of Simulation Learning tools, which include course materials required throughout the program.

Fees are non-refundable after the change of schedule period. Please note the Educational Testing Fees do not apply to degree completion students.

Information about financial assistance may be obtained from the university’s Office of Financial Aid.

For additional information, contact the Nursing Admissions and Advisement Office.

Major in Nursing

- Major in Nursing: Basic Students (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/health-professions/nursing/nursing-basic-students)
- Degree Completion Options (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/health-professions/nursing/degree-completion)

Admission To The Nursing Major

Before students can be considered for admission to the Nursing major, they must be admitted to or have applied for admission to the university. Transfer students must adhere to the university's transfer policies.

Admission to the Nursing major is granted only by the department. Admission to the university does not constitute or guarantee admission to the major. Students are admitted in both the fall and spring terms of each academic year. The hard copy application for admission to the Nursing major is available online. It is to be returned to the admissions coordinator, Department of Nursing, by January 15 for fall admission and August 15 for spring admission. Because the process requires official transcripts from all educational institutions that students have attended, students should allow sufficient time for receipt of transcripts in the department by the due date.

The most recent version of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) is required to apply to the major. The score received on the test is included in the selective admissions process. If official TEAS scores are not forwarded to the admissions coordinator, the nursing application will not be processed. Please review the nursing application packet for further information and instructions. A $50 non-refundable application fee is required for the application to be processed.
Basic Program
High school students are advised to take the following courses to provide the base necessary to complete the prerequisite courses for the Nursing major:

- Mathematics – three units (two years of algebra and one year of geometry)
- Chemistry – one unit
- Biology – one unit
- Physics, although not required, is recommended.

Eligibility and Screening
Admission to the major is contingent upon the student being screened and admission being offered to the applicant by the department. The screening process takes place during the term prior to the student’s anticipated enrollment in the first nursing course. Students are eligible to apply for admission after they have completed a minimum of 42 undergraduate units, including at least three laboratory science prerequisites and ENGL 102. A grade equivalent of 2.00 is required in all nursing prerequisite courses, and no more than two courses may be repeated. A minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale is required. Students must note that achievement at the 3.00 level in itself does not guarantee admission to the program.

Individual Admission Policy
Applicants who do not meet the admission criteria may still be considered for admission under the individual admission policy. To be considered, the individual must demonstrate the ability to be successful in a rigorous academic curriculum through recent strong academic performance in relevant course work. Applicants who wish to be considered under this policy must submit, with the standard application, supporting materials making a specific, personalized case of why the applicant deserves acceptance into a rigorous academic program. Submitted materials should include a written request for consideration, two letters of recommendation from appropriate sources, such as professors or academic advisers, and a personal statement with supporting materials explaining why the applicant deserves special consideration and why his or her qualifications do not meet stated criteria. Materials submitted should contain very specific and compelling information to warrant special consideration.

Transfer And Second Degree Students
Transfer students and those seeking a second baccalaureate degree are admitted to the university according to university policies and procedures. Generally, transfer students must complete all required nursing courses at Towson University. Nursing courses completed in another baccalaureate nursing program are evaluated individually for equivalence by the department.

Courses
NURS 323 CRISIS AND STRESS MANAGEMENT (3)
Integrated, comprehensive, multicomponent approach to crisis intervention in a variety of individuals, groups, and settings. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or HLTH 101.

NURS 330 PROFESSIONAL NURSING: BRIDGE (3)
Conceptual framework of Department of Nursing, including health, health promotion, and maintenance for clients throughout the life span. Prerequisite: admission to Nursing major, RN in the state of Maryland.

NURS 331 PROFESSIONAL NURSING I: INTRODUCTION (2)
Introduces students to the professional role of nursing. Encompasses the conceptual framework of the Department of Nursing. Prerequisite: admission to the Nursing major.

NURS 332 PROFESSIONAL NURSING I: INTRODUCTION TO NURSING (3)
Introduces students to the profession of nursing including the historical and theoretical basis of nursing and current issues facing the nursing profession. Prerequisite: admission to Nursing Program.

NURS 333 PROFESSIONAL NURSING III: ISSUES (3)
Advanced writing course for nursing that focuses on social policy and the contemporary issues and challenges of the healthcare system and nursing. Requires grade of C or better to fulfill Core or GenEd requirement. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 or ENGL 190; all first-semester junior-level Nursing courses or Admission to the Degree Completion Option. Core: Advanced Writing Seminar or GenEd I.D.

NURS 340 PATHOPHARMACOLOGY (5)
Focuses on human pathophysiological and pharmacological concepts as a basis for nursing practice. Prerequisite: admission to the Nursing Program.

NURS 341 ALTERATIONS IN HEALTH (3)
Pathophysiologic processes of human illness across the life span. Adaptive and maladaptive responses to stress are examined. Prerequisites: admission to the Nursing major; NURS 331 (may be taken concurrently).

NURS 343 PHARMACOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS (2)
Pharmacologic agents commonly used in treatment of disease states and the nursing responsibilities involved. Prerequisites: admission to the Nursing major; NURS 331 and NURS 341 (may be taken concurrently).

NURS 345 TECHNOLOGY & THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS (2)
Technological, psychomotor and psychosocial skills used by the nurse in the provider of care role. Prerequisites: admission to the Nursing major; NURS 331, NURS 341, NURS 343, NURS 347 (may be taken concurrently).

NURS 347 HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN (3)
Prepares the student to perform and document physical and psychosocial health assessments using the Department of Nursing’s Conceptual Framework as a foundation. Focus is on acquisition of the psychomotor and interpersonal skills required for the nurse to enact the provider of care role and perform safe, comprehensive assessments of infants, children, adults, and the elderly. Prerequisite: admission to the Nursing Program.

NURS 349 HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND HEALTH PROMOTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (4)
Major concepts of health, health promotion and maintenance, and therapeutic communication. Focuses on the acquisition of skills for physical and psychosocial assessment across the lifespan. Students who have successfully completed NURS 347 will not receive additional credit for NURS 349. Prerequisites: admission to the Degree Completion Option or permission of the Department.

NURS 351 NURSING PRACTICE I: HEALTH PROMOTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (4)
Major concepts of health, health promotion and maintenance for clients throughout the life span. Initial experience in the provider role of the professional nurse. Prerequisites: admission to the nursing major; NURS 331, NURS 341, NURS 343, NURS 345, and NURS 347 (may be taken concurrently).
NURS 353 NURSING PRACTICE II: ADULT HEALTH (5)
Nursing care of adults experiencing alterations in health. Application of critical thinking skills and therapeutic nursing interventions in a variety of community-based environments. Prerequisite: completion of all courses in junior year, first term.

NURS 356 NURS & HEALTHCARE I: FOUNDATIONS [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of foundational nursing care for adult patients/clients. Concepts integrated throughout the course include the nursing process, clinical judgment, evidence-based practice, written and oral communication, basic patient/client care and comfort, medication management, infection control, and perioperative care. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the nurse as coordinator of care and responsibilities related to accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in patient/client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team in order to provide exemplary care. Corequisite: NURS 356C. Prerequisite: admission to the Nursing Program.

NURS 356C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE I: FOUNDATIONS CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of the nurse as provider of foundational nursing care for adult patients/clients in a variety of settings. Concepts integrated into planning and implementing care include the nursing process, clinical judgement, evidence-based practice, written and oral communication, basic patient/client care and comfort, medication management, infection control, and preoperative care. Clinical experiences in health care agencies and the Simulation Laboratory provide the student with opportunities to develop psychomotor skills associated with a range of fundamental nursing care interventions. The role of nurse as a coordinator of care includes a clinical focus on accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team to provide exemplary care. Grading S/U. Corequisites: NURS 332, NURS 340, NURS 347 and NURS 356. Prerequisite: admission to Nursing Program.

NURS 358 NURSING AND HEALTHCARE III: MENTAL HEALTH [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of nursing care for patients across developmental stages experiencing alterations in psychological and mental health. Concepts integrated throughout the course include health. Concepts integrated throughout the course include health; wellness-illness; physiological, psychological, spiritual and sociocultural dimensions; stress and adaptation, caring; communication; health promotion, maintenance and restoration. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the nurse as coordinator of care and responsibilities related to accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team to provide exemplary psychiatric care. Corequisite: NURS 358. Prerequisite: all first-term junior-level nursing courses.

NURS 358C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE III: MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of the nurse as provider of care for patients across developmental stages experiencing alterations in psychological and mental health. Concepts integrated into planning and implementing care include health; wellness-illness; physiological, psychological, spiritual and sociocultural dimensions; stress and adaptation, caring; communication; health promotion, maintenance and restoration. Emphasis is placed on clinical application of critical thinking skills and therapeutic communication with clients in a variety of environments. The role of nurse as coordinator of care includes a clinical focus on accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team to provide exemplary psychiatric care. Grading S/U. Corequisite: NURS 358. Prerequisite: all first term junior-level nursing courses.

NURS 360 NURSING AND HEALTHCARE II: ADULT HEALTH & ILLNESS [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of nursing care for the adult patient/client experiencing common illnesses. An understanding of pathophysiological progression of disease provides the foundation for planning holistic patient/client care. Additional concepts integrated throughout the course include principles of evidence-based practice, health promotion, risk reduction, clinical decision-making and collaboration. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the nurse as coordinator of care and responsibilities related to accountability for the quality of care, experiences in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team in order to provide exemplary care. Corequisite: NURS 360C. Prerequisite: all first-term junior-level nursing courses.

NURS 360C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE II: ADULT HEALTH & ILLNESS CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of nurse as provider of care for adult patients/clients experiencing common illnesses. Concepts integrated into planning and implementing care include pathophysiological progression of disease, risk reduction, health promotion, clinical decision-making and collaboration. The role of nurse as coordinator of care includes and clinical focus on accountability for quality of care, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team in order to provide exemplary care. Grading S/U. Corequisite: NURS 360. Prerequisite: all first-term junior-level nursing courses.

NURS 404 HEALTH CARE: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH (3)
Health care in America, exploring societal factors, resources, social policy, health care delivery, legal and ethical issues. Prerequisite: junior/senior status.

NURS 410 SPIRITUALITY, HEALTH, AND NURSING PRACTICE (3)
Application of theory and research in spiritual care of diverse client populations across the life span and development of spiritual self-care plan of the provider. Prerequisites: One clinical course in nursing, RN status, or consent of instructor.

NURS 416 CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN HEALTH CARE (3)
Transcultural health care principles, focusing on cultural influences on biological, psychological, sociological, intellectual and spiritual dimensions of individuals. Historical perspective to contemporary cultural health care. Prerequisites: junior-level standing in the Nursing Program, admission to the Degree Completion Option, or permission of the Department. GenEd II.C.3 or Core: Diversity & Difference.
NURS 435 PROFESSIONAL III: RESEARCH IN NURSING (3)
Develops the foundation to understand and utilize the research process in evidence-based nursing practice. Prerequisites: a basic statistics or biostatistics course (MATH 231 or MATH 237, PSYC 212) and completion of all junior level, first and second term nursing courses or Admission to the Degree Completion Option.

NURS 460 NURSING & HEALTHCARE IV: OLDER ADULTS (2)
Utilizes the nursing process as it relates to the unique needs of older adults. Prerequisite: all first and second term junior-level nursing courses or Admission to the Degree Completion Option.

NURS 470 SPECIAL TOPICS IN NURSING (1-3)
An examination of current and evolving topics in nursing. The specific requirements and prerequisites will vary with each topic and will be designated by the department. May be repeated for credit provided a different topic is covered.

NURS 472 NURSING AND HEALTHCARE V: FAMILY HEALTH [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of nursing care for women & families throughout the reproductive lifespan. Pregnancy and childbirth are presented within a philosophy of wellness and normal physiological, psychological, and sociocultural adaptation. Concepts and issues integrated throughout the course include the recognition of the impact of cultural beliefs and ethnic diversity on childbearing, and the nurse's role in reproductive health are identified along with health promotion and disease prevention through planning client teaching and the identification of risk factors. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the nurse as the coordinator of care and responsibilities related to accountability for the quality of care, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team in order to provide exemplary care to reproductive age women and their families. Corequisite: NURS 472C. Prerequisite: all first and second term junior level nursing courses.

NURS 472C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE V: FAMILY HEALTH CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of the nurse as provider of care, in a variety of settings, for women and families throughout the reproductive lifespan. Pregnancy and childbirth are framed within a philosophy of wellness and normal physiological, psychological, and sociocultural adaptation. The impact of cultural beliefs and ethnic diversity on childbearing, and the nurse's role in reproductive health are considered when planning and providing nursing care. Issues in reproductive health are identified along with health promotion and disease prevention through client teaching and identification of risk factors. Emphasis is placed on the clinical application of critical thinking skills and therapeutic nursing interventions. The role of the nurse as coordinator of care includes a clinical focus on accountability for the quality of care provided in various settings, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team to provide exemplary care. Graded S/U. Corequisite: NURS 472C. Prerequisite: all first and second term junior level nursing courses.

NURS 474 NURSING AND HEALTHCARE VI: CHILD HEALTH [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of the care families whose children, at various development stages, are experiencing alterations in health. Concepts integrated throughout the course will include: health; wellness-illness; physiological, psychological, spiritual, and sociocultural dimensions; stress and adaptation; caring; communication; health promotion, maintenance, and restoration. Emphasis will be placed on classroom application of critical thinking skills, interpersonal communication, and therapeutic nursing interventions with children and their families in a variety of environments. The role of nurse as coordinator of care includes a classroom focus on accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in client advocacy, and interdisciplinary collaboration to provide comprehensive health care. Corequisite: NURS 474C. Prerequisites: all first and second term junior level nursing courses.

NURS 474C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE VI: CHILD HEALTH CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of the nurse as provider of care for families whose children are experiencing alterations in health. Concepts integrated into planning and implementing care include: developmental stages; health; wellness-illness; physiological, psychological, spiritual, and sociocultural dimensions; stress and adaptation; caring; communication; health promotion, maintenance, and restoration. Emphasis is placed on clinical application of critical thinking skills, interpersonal communication, and therapeutic nursing interventions with children and families in a variety of environments. The role of nurse as coordinator of care includes a clinical focus on accountability for the quality of care provided in various environments, experience in client advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team to provide exemplary care. Graded S/U. Corequisite: NURS 474. Prerequisites: all first and second term junior level nursing courses.

NURS 476 NURSING AND HEALTHCARE VII: COMMUNITY HEALTH [LEC] (3)
Focuses on the theoretical and conceptual knowledge base of nursing care for complex families, aggregates, and communities. Concepts integrated into planning and implementing care include health; wellness-illness; physiological, spiritual, sociocultural dimension, stress and adaptation; caring; communication; health promotion; maintenance and disease prevention; vulnerability and environmental health. Emphasis is placed on clinical application of critical thinking skills and therapeutic nursing interventions with complex families, aggregates, and communities. The role of nurse as coordinator of care includes a focus on accountability for quality care, experience in advocacy, and collaboration with members of the healthcare team in order to provide culturally appropriate care. Corequisite: NURS 476C. Prerequisites: all junior level and first-term senior-level nursing courses or Admission to the Degree Completion Option.

NURS 476C NURSING AND HEALTHCARE VII: COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICAL (2)
Focuses on the role of the nurse as provider of care for complex families, aggregates, and communities. Concepts integrated throughout the course include health; wellness-illness; physiological, psychological, spiritual, sociocultural dimension; stress and adaptation; caring; communication; health promotion; maintenance and disease prevention. Emphasis is placed on understanding vulnerable families and communities, epidemiologic concepts, environmental health, advocacy, and collaboration with members of the health care team in order to provide culturally competent care. Graded S/U. Corequisite: NURS 476. Prerequisites: all junior level and first-term senior-level nursing courses.
**NURS 480 NURSING & HEALTHCARE VII: ADULT HEALTH AND COMPLEX ILLNESS (3)**
Examines the role of the nurse in providing care to adult clients with complex health care needs. Prerequisites: all junior level and first-term senior-level nursing courses.

**NURS 484 NURSING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT (3)**
Leadership roles and management functions of the nurse as coordinator of care for clients across the life span in a variety of health care environments. Prerequisites: all junior level and first-term senior-level nursing courses or Admission to the Degree Completion Option.

**NURS 485 CLINICAL PRACTICUM (3)**
Clinical practicum that focuses on refining clinical knowledge and skills used in the professional practice of nursing. Grading: S/U. Prerequisites: all junior level and first-term senior-level nursing courses.

**NURS 486 SEMINAR IN NURSING (1)**
Selected topic in nursing and healthcare through enhanced integration of knowledge in theory and practice. May be repeated for a total of 2 units provided a different topic is taken each time. Corequisites: senior level first or second semester courses or permission of instructor. Prerequisite: admission to the Degree Completion Option or permission of the Department.

**NURS 489 DEGREE COMPLETION PRACTICUM (3)**
Clinical Practicum for the RN student with a focus on leadership and community healthcare. Prerequisites: admission to the Degree Completion Program; Senior Standing; NURS 333, NURS 349, NURS 416, NURS 435, NURS 486 or NURS 460, NURS 476 and NURS 484 (NURS 476 and 484 may be taken concurrently with NURS 489).

**NURS 491 DIRECTED READINGS (1-3)**
Independent reading designed to explore topics and/or issues of special interest to the practice of nursing. Prerequisites: completion of all 300-level nursing courses and permission of chair of the department.

**NURS 493 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3)**
Directed study designed to provide an in-depth educational experience in nursing. Topics related to theory and practice of nursing. Prerequisites: completion of all 300-level nursing courses or equivalent and permission of chair of the department.

**NURS 494 TRAVEL STUDY IN NURSING (3-9)**
Historical and contemporary socio-political factors that guide the delivery of health care to various population groups in other countries. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.