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 University 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 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. 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: 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.