**NURSING PROGRAM**

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**Program Description**

The mission of the Dixie State College Nursing Program is the education of nurses at the associate and baccalaureate levels who are dedicated to excellence in health care. Our goals are to:

- Provide an innovative and collaborative learning environment.
- Prepare generalist nurses who can practice in various health care settings.
- Apply evidence-based practice in educational and clinical settings.
- Enhance the quality of life of diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and society.
- Promote responsibility and commitment to lifelong learning.

Nursing Education is a lifelong process which includes reflection, intellectual challenge, and practice. It encompasses the development of knowledge, skills, and personal and professional values. Nursing education facilitates the learning process through the assimilation of knowledge and the acquisition of eight competencies which include critical thinking, technical skills, therapeutic communication, leadership/management, time management/organization, professional behavior, caring, and the nursing process. A supportive environment for nursing education is one of caring in which all persons are respected, trusted, and nurtured. Through education, the faculty endeavors to develop and enhance learners’ individual growth, professional practice and social responsibility, and leadership in increasingly complex health care environments. Education is the progressive discovery of knowledge and possibility. Our aim is for students to recognize what they do and do not know as well as how to acquire what they need to know.
Teaching/Learning is a collaborative process in which the nursing instructor, informed by the curriculum, evidence-based nursing practice, and teaching and learning theories facilitates the nursing student preparedness to meet the goals and outcomes of the Nursing Program and the NLCEX® exam.

The eight competencies that the student develops across the curriculum include:

**Critical Thinking** is the ability to think in a systematic and logical manner when posed with a thinking challenge. Critical thinking in nursing is used for clinical judgment and decision-making that ensures safe nursing practice and quality care. Critical thinking requires an attitude of inquiry, openness to questioning, and reflection on the reasoning process. Technical skills require technical competence. Such competence is demonstrated by the ability to use equipment and supplies with confidence and skill thus meeting client needs. It also includes the ability to adapt procedures and equipment to meet client needs in diverse situations and care settings.

**Therapeutic Communication** is the ability to apply concepts of communication and therapeutic interaction in building and maintaining relationships with clients, families, groups, communities and other members of the health care team. Communication promotes the value of each individual, group, or community including their strengths, abilities, and challenges to achieve established goals. It is dependent upon caring.

**Leadership/Management:** Leadership requires personal traits necessary to establish vision and goals for a group and the ability to execute them. Management requires personal traits necessary to plan, organize, motivate, and manage a group of people and their resources. Leadership and management include delegation, evaluation, conflict resolution, and collaboration with other members of the health care team.

**Time Management/Organization** is the responsibility and accountability to client, peer, and employer environments through a sound work ethic. It is demonstrated through attendance, work within designated standards, performance of assigned responsibilities, prioritization of care, and effective use of time.

**Professional Behavior** is characterized by a commitment to the profession of nursing. Professional behavior involves adherence to standards of nursing practice; accountability for actions and behaviors; and nursing practice within legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks.

**Caring** is the recognition and acknowledgment of the value of individuals, families, groups, communities, and other members of the health care team. Caring is an altruistic philosophy of moral and ethical commitment toward the protection, promotion and preservation of human dignity and diversity. Caring is the essence of nursing.

**The Nursing Process** serves as a critical thinking tool in nursing. The nursing process involves the methodology of decision-making that provides direction and order to holistic nursing care across the health continuum. The components of the nursing process include assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Implicit in the nursing process is the professional and therapeutic relationship of the nurse with client and family.

The Department offers three levels of nursing education.

1. **The Practical Nurse** certificate program (PN)* prepares students to assume the role of the licensed practical nurse upon successful completion of the practical nurse licensing exam.

2. **The Associate Degree Nursing Program** prepares students to assume the role of registered nurse. Graduates of this program will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible for registered nurse licensure upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN® licensure examination. Associate Degree Nurses (ADN) practice in the roles of care provider, care manager, and member within the discipline of nursing. ADN graduates are registered nurses who provide direct care to clients with complex health needs; adjust care as client situations change; collect and analyze data from clients, families, and other health care resources; formulate appropriate nursing diagnoses; develop and revise plans of care based on client decisions; and collaborate and communicate with clients, families, and other health professionals. ADNs also are accountable for care of their clients, and of those whose care has been delegated to others, including licensed and unlicensed health care workers.

3. **The RN-to-Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program** is designed to provide registered nurses with further education necessary for progression in their careers, entrance into management positions, and admission into graduate nursing programs leading to advanced practice nursing, nursing education, and nursing administration. Graduates will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Bachelor of Science Degree Nurses (BSN) are professional nurses who have more extensive opportunities...
for practice than Associate Degree Nurses. The BSN practices in the role of provider, manager, and coordinator of care as well as functioning as a leader of care teams. BSN graduates use research, information technology, ethical frameworks, political advocacy, and policy making in the provision of care with individuals, families, groups and communities across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments. The BSN graduate is accountable for his or her own practice and care delegated to others. The BSN is generally a prerequisite for graduate nursing education.

*The Practical Nurse certificate program will not be offered after Fall 2010. Students admitted to the Nursing program will complete the pre-licensure requirements and enter directly into a Associate Degree Nursing program. The revised associate degree program will include a PN transitions course after the third semester for those students who wish to take the PN licensing exam.

Career Opportunities
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008-2009, overall job opportunities for registered nurses are expected to be excellent, but may vary by employment and geographic setting. Employment of RNs is expected to grow by 23 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations. Nurse employment in hospitals is expected to slow as health care efforts place more emphasis on disease prevention, health promotion, and provision of care in community and home settings.

RNs working in the United States average a median annual base salary of $41,642. Half of all US RNs are expected to earn between $38,792 and $44,869. Nearly 67% of nurses are employed in hospital inpatient and outpatient settings. Thirty-two percent of all nurses are employed in other settings such as medical offices and clinics, home health care, outpatient care centers, long term care facilities, temporary help agencies, colleges/universities, and government agencies. Nurses work as direct patient care providers, administrators, researchers, policy makers, and educators. Nursing specialties include critical care, emergency care, home health care, hospice care, infusion care, long term care, medical-surgical care, occupational health, preoperative, psychiatric care, radiology nurse, rehab nurse, transplant nurse, addiction care, diabetes, management, HIV/AIDS, wound and ostomy nurse, oncology, neonatal care, pediatrics, maternity, gerontology, travel nurse, flight nurse, and more.

Facilities
The Department of Nursing is located in the Russell Taylor Health Science Center near Dixie Regional Medical Center. The Taylor Health Science Center, 78,000 square feet on three floors, houses all of Dixie State College’s Allied Health programs. The Nursing Program, located on the third floor, utilizes state-of-the-art classrooms, nursing laboratories, and simulation rooms.

Scholarships
A limited number of nursing department scholarships are available for students who have been accepted into the Nursing Program. Recipients must be full-time, undergraduate nursing students in good academic standing. Contact the Financial Aid Office at http://www.dixie.edu/financial for further information.

Accreditation
The Practical and Associate Degree Nursing Programs have been approved by the Utah Board of Nursing and have been accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC) since 2002. The RN-to-BSN program is a candidate for accreditation by the NLNAC. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission can be contacted at:

NLNAC, Inc.
3343 Peachtree Rd NE, Suite 500
Atlanta GA 30326
(404) 975-5000
http://www.nlnac.org

Admission to the Practical Nurse/Associate Degree in Nursing Programs
All applicants must be admitted as students to Dixie State College of Utah. All prerequisites must be completed before the start of the Associate of Applied Science program. Students must complete all prerequisite courses with a minimum of a “C” grade or higher and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in those courses. Prerequisite courses may be repeated one time only. Students must also be certified as a nurse assistant (CNA) before being admitted into this program. If the CNA course is taken at DSC, a minimum grade of “B” or higher is required.

Space in the program is limited, therefore, admission will be competitive and applicants will be scored on an objective point procedure that has been strategically set up to predict student success. Forty (40) students are admitted each fall and spring semester.
Applicants will be evaluated on the following:

- Current certified nurse assistant certificate
- Academic Excellence in pre-requisite courses**
- Entrance Examination (TEAS V® test) – must be taken within 2 months of application period.
- Program Essay
- Health Requirements
- Background Screening

Refer to http://www.dixie.edu/health/nursing for additional admission requirements and application information.

**Prerequisite courses:

- BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab (3.0/2.0)
- BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology / Lab (3.0/1.0)
- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing (3.0)
- CHEM 1110/1115 Elem Gen Organic Chemistry / Lab (4.0/1.0)

One of the following:

- MATH 1040 Intro to Statistics (3.0) recommended
- MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning (3.0)
- MATH 1050 College Algebra / Pre-Calculus (4.0)

One of the following:

- PSY 1010 General Psychology (3.0)
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)
- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)

Admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

Requirements for admission to the BSN program include graduation from an accredited associate degree registered nurse program, current registered nurse licensure, and completion of all Nursing courses with a minimum of “C” grade and cumulative GPA of 3.0 in those courses.

A previously earned degree may complete some or all of DSC’s General Education requirements. DSC’s General Education requirements must be fulfilled prior to degree completion.

Degrees and Certificates

- Certificate in Practical Nursing (not offered beginning January 2011)
- Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (students entering January 2010 or before)
- Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (students entering January 2011 or after)
- Baccalaureate in Nursing (RN-to-BSN completion program)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) 120 credits

Prerequisites

- Completion of an AAS, AS, or equivalent degree in Nursing
- Current Registered Nurse license

General Education Requirements

All DSC General Education requirements must be fulfilled. A previously earned degree may fulfill those requirements. However, courses must be equivalent to DSC’s minimum General Education standards in the following subjects:

- American Institutions
- English
- Mathematics
DSC General Education Requirements

Complete the following:

- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3.0
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3.0
- CIS 1200 Computer Skills 3.0
- LIB 1010 Information Literacy 1.0

Complete one of the following: 3.0-4.0

- MATH 1040 Intro to Statistics (3.0) recommended
- MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning (3.0)
- MATH 1050 College Algebra / Pre-Calculus (4.0)

Complete the following:

- American Institutions GE approved course 3.0
- Life Sciences GE approved course 3.0-5.0
- Physical Science GE approved course 3.0-5.0
- Social & Behavioral Sciences GE approved course 3.0
- Fine Arts / Communication GE approved course 3.0
- Literature / Humanities GE approved course 3.0

Discipline Core Requirements

Complete the following:

- BIOL 4400 Pathophysiology 3.0

Complete one of the following:

- MATH 1040 Intro to Statistics 3.0
- STAT 2040 Business Statistics (4.0)

Complete one of the following: 3.0

- COMM 2110 Interpersonal Communication (3.0) recommended
- COMM 1010 Elements of Effective Communication (3.0)
- COMM 1020 Public Speaking (3.0)

Complete the following:

- NURS 3100 Professional Nursing Roles 2.0
- NURS 3200 Health Assessment 3.0
- NURS 3300 Transcultural Nursing 3.0
- NURS 3400 Nursing Informatics 3.0
- NURS 3600 Nursing Research 3.0
- NURS 3700 Gerontological Nursing 2.0
- NURS 4020/25 Community Health Nursing/clinical 6.0
- NURS 4040/41 Nursing Leadership & Mgmt/Clinical 7.0
- NURS 4030 Nursing Policy and Ethics 3.0
- NURS 4100 Senior Seminar 3.0
- NURS 4600 Senior Capstone 4.0-6.0

Graduation Requirements

1. Complete a minimum of 120 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 40 upper-division credits.
3. Complete at least 30 upper-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
4. Cumulative GPA 2.0 or higher.
   Grade C or higher in each Discipline Core Requirement course.

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The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree (ADN) has three basic components:

1. Lower-division, General Education Requirements (18 credits).
2. Program Prerequisites (9 credits).
3. Core Discipline Requirements (36 credits).

**General Education Requirements**
Complete the following:

- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3.0
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3.0
- CHEM 1110/1115 Elem Gen Organic Chemistry / Lab 4.0/1.0
- LIB 1010 Information Literacy 1.0
- MATH 1050 College Algebra / Pre-Calculus 4.0

Complete one of the following: 3.0
- PSY 1010 General Psychology (3.0)
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)
- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)

**Program Prerequisites**
Complete the following:

- BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab 3.0/2.0
- BIOL 2420/2405 Human Physiology / Lab 3.0/1.0

**Discipline Core Requirements**
Complete the following:

- NURS 1100 Medical-Surgical Nursing I 9.0
- NURS 1120 Nursing Pharmacology I 1.0
- NURS 1200 Maternal Newborn Nursing I 2.0
- NURS 1220 Nursing Pharmacology II 1.0
- NURS 1250 Pediatric Nursing I 2.0
- NURS 1260 Psychiatric Nursing II 1.5
- NURS 1300 Entry into Practice I 2.5
- NURS 2100 Medical-Surgical Nursing II 8.5
- NURS 2120 Nursing Pharmacology III 1.0
- NURS 2200 Maternal Newborn Nursing II 1.5
- NURS 2250 Pediatric Nursing II 1.0
- NURS 2260 Psychiatric Nursing II 1.5
- NURS 2300 Entry into Practice II 3.5

**Graduation Requirements**

1. Complete a minimum of 63 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 20 lower-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
3. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0.
4. Grade C or higher in each General Education, Program Prerequisite, and Discipline Core Requirement course.
The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree (ADN) has three basic components:

1. Lower-division, General Education Requirements (17 – 18 credits).
2. Program Prerequisites (9 credits).
3. Core Discipline Requirements (39 credits).

General Education Requirements
Complete the following:

- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3.0
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3.0
- CHEM 1110/1115 Elem Gen Organic Chemistry / Lab 4.0/1.0

Complete one of the following: 3.0-4.0

- MATH 1040 Intro to Statistics (3.0) recommended
- MATH 1030 Quantitative Reasoning (3.0)
- MATH 1050 College Algebra / Pre-Calculus (4.0)

Complete one of the following: 3.0

- PSY 1010 General Psychology (3.0)
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)
- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)

Program Prerequisites
Complete the following:

- BIOL 2320/2325 Human Anatomy / Lab 3.0/2.0
- BIOL 2420/2425 Human Physiology / Lab 3.0/1.0

Discipline Core Requirements
Complete the following:

- NURS 2000 Intro to Health Concepts 5.0
- NURS 2400 Health Illness Concepts I 6.0
- NURS 2450 Nursing Pharmacology Concepts I 1.0
- NURS 2500 Health Illness Concepts II 8.0
- NURS 2530 Family Health Concepts 5.0
- NURS 2550 Nursing Pharmacology Concepts II 1.0
- NURS 2600 Health Systems Concepts 4.0
- NURS 2650 Nursing Pharmacology Concepts III 1.0
- NURS 2700 Complex Health Concepts 8.0

Graduation Requirements
1. Complete a minimum of 65 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Complete at least 20 lower-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
3. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0.
4. Grade C or higher in each General Education, Program Prerequisite, and Discipline Core Requirement course.
**Certificate in Practical Nursing**
(for students entering the program January 2010 or before) 46 credits

### General Education Requirements
Complete the following:

- ENGL 1010 Intro to Writing 3.0
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing 3.0
- CHEM 1110/15 Elem Gen Organic Chemistry / Lab 4.0/1.0
- MATH 1050 College Algebra / Pre-Calculus 4.0

Complete **one** of the following: 3.0
- PSY 1010 General Psychology (3.0)
- PSY 1100 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)
- FCS 1500 Human Development/Lifespan (3.0)

### Program Prerequisites
Complete the following:

- BIOL 2320/25 Human Anatomy / Lab 3.0/2.0
- BIOL 2420/25 Human Physiology / Lab 3.0/1.0

### Discipline Core Requirements
Complete the following:

- NURS 1100 Medical-Surgical Nursing I 9.0
- NURS 1120 Nursing Pharmacology I 1.0
- NURS 1200 Maternal Newborn Nursing I 2.0
- NURS 1220 Nursing Pharmacology II 1.0
- NURS 1250 Pediatric Nursing I 2.0
- NURS 1260 Psychiatric Nursing II 1.5
- NURS 1300 Entry into Practice 1 2.5

### Completion Requirements
1. Complete at least 46 college-level credits (1000 and above).
2. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0.
3. Grade C or higher in each Program Prerequisite and Discipline Core Requirement course.

**Note:** This certificate will not be offered after January 2011.