



## Program of Study: Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)

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### Program Description

The RN to BSN program is designed for registered nurses with an associate's degree or diploma in nursing. The format and courses of the regionally accredited program are tailored to meet the needs of the adult learner RN, and to maximize strengths that the working RN possesses. A bridge course facilitates the transition of the working RN into the baccalaureate program. Courses are taught by experts in their respective fields who share knowledge and experience in areas of clinical patient care, healthcare management, and professional nursing practice and leadership. Opportunities are provided to apply concepts, theories, and research in the RN's clinical practice. Both the science and art of nursing are integral components of the program and are woven throughout. Graduates of the program are prepared to become leaders in the nursing profession.

### Additional Admission Requirements

In addition to the general Undergraduate Admission Requirements listed in the Academic Catalog, the following admission requirements must be met.

1. Degree-bearing Candidates:
  - a. Possess a GCU-approved Associates degree in nursing from an accredited, GCU-approved college, university, or program.
  - b. Submit official transcripts bearing evidence of a cumulative GPA of 2.8. No transferable credits may have a grade below a "C" (2.00).
  - c. Possess a current unencumbered, unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the state where they are employed as an RN.
2. Non-degree-bearing/Nursing Diploma Candidates:
  - a. Submit proof of successful completion of an approved nursing program.
  - b. Tender official transcripts bearing evidence of a cumulative GPA of 2.80. No transferable credits may have a grade below a "C" (2.00).
  - c. Possess a current unencumbered, unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the state where they are employed as an RN.
  - d. Be prepared to transfer or complete the following general education competencies that are not integrated into the program core with a minimum grade of "C" (2.00)
    - i. 6 credits of English Composition
    - ii. 5 credits of Scientific Inquiry
    - iii. 3 credits of History
    - iv. 4 credits of Humanities

RN to BSN Core:

Course Number	Course Title	Course Description	Credits
NRS 430	Professional Dynamics	This course is a bridge course for the RN returning to formal education for the baccalaureate degree in nursing. The course focuses on differentiated nursing practice competencies, nursing conceptual models, professional accountability, integrating spirituality into practice, group dynamics, and critical thinking. Emphasis is placed as well on writing and oral presentation skills.	3
NRS 429	Family Centered Health Promotion	This course focuses on family theories, health promotion models, cultural diversity and teaching learning principles. The course emphasizes the family as the client, family FHP health assessments, screenings across the life span, communication, community resources, and family education. Appropriate health promotion education will be evaluated against evidence based research and practice.	3
NRS 434	Health Assessment	This course focuses on methods of health history taking, physical examination skills, documentation, and health screening. The course emphasizes the individual as the client, functional health patterns, community resources, and the teaching learning process.	3
NRS 427	Concepts in Community and Public Health	This course focuses on the community as a large system of people of varying cultures, spiritual values, geographic norms, and economic conditions, all influenced by social-legal-political variables that impact individual and community health. There is particular attention paid to vulnerable subgroups in the community. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, using epidemiological data and functional health pattern assessments to plan and intervene in areas of health promotion and disease prevention.	3
HLT 362	Statistics	This introductory course on statistical concepts emphasizes applications to health care professions. The course is designed to prepare students to interpret and evaluate statistics and statistical methods used in published research papers and to make decisions about the appropriateness of specific statistical methods in a variety of settings. Areas of emphasis will include introduction to analysis of variance, regression, and graphical presentation; experimental design; descriptive statistics; sampling methods; and z, t, and chi-square.	3
NRS 433	Introduction to Nursing Research	This course promotes the use of research findings as a basis for improving clinical practice. Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies are presented. Emphasis is on the critical review of research studies and their applications to clinical practice. An overview of evidence-based practice is provided. This course is designated as a GCU Writing Intensive Course. Prerequisite: PSY 363 or BIO 363.	3
NRS 437	Ethical Decision Making in Health Care	This course is a general introduction to the field of biomedical ethics. Students study the application of ethics and moral theories to concepts and issues arising in the health care professions. The course provides students, both as consumers and providers, an opportunity to study ethical decision making, health care situations with implications for ethical decision making and analysis of ethical behavior of individuals involved in health care. Topics will include exploration of major ethical theories and principles, informed consent, confidentiality and ethical implications of selected issues such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide and allocation of scarce resources.	3
NRS 349	Spirituality in Health Care	This course explores the concept of spirituality as it relates to the person who is involved in the health care system. Since illness and stress can amplify spiritual concerns and needs, health care professionals are in a unique position to assist the patient/client in meeting those needs. This course explores the relationship between health care professionals and those they serve. Topics include performing spiritual assessment, identifying those experiencing spiritual well-being as well as those experiencing a threat to spiritual well-being, and planning and evaluating care related to spiritual wellness. A spiritual care framework is used to apply these concepts to a variety of populations in diverse clinical settings.	3

NRS 451	Nursing Leadership and Management	Registered nurses with current licensure have a basic understanding of the role of the professional nurse. This course emphasizes further development of the professional nurse role. Critical management and leadership values, styles, and skills are a major focus. Particular attention is given to the identification of personal leadership styles and values. Importance is placed on development of effective management and leadership skills with emphasis on effective communication.	3
NRS 410	Pathophysiology and Nursing Management of Clients' Health	This course is designed to enhance the working RN's existing understanding of the pathophysiological processes of disease as they affect clients across the lifespan. The interrelationship of structural and functional reactions of cells and tissues to genetic alterations and injurious agents provide the foundation for comprehending clinical manifestations and treatment protocols. Critical thinking and nursing management will be enhanced through the use of case studies that integrate nutritional and pharmacological concepts. The understanding of environmental and biological risk factors will provide the nurse with the knowledge to provide health promotion and prevention education.	3
NRS 440	Trends and Issues in Health Care	Trends and Issues explores the impact of numerous professional and societal forces on health care policy and practice. Content includes an analysis of current studies; nursing care policy and position statements; political, environmental, and cultural issues; changing nursing roles. The study of these issues examines the impact on health care delivery systems in our society.	3
NRS 441	Professional Capstone Project	The capstone project is a culmination of the learning experiences while a student in the nursing program at Grand Canyon University's College of Nursing. The student will prepare a written proposal for a project whose focus is in the resolution of an issue or problem significant to professional nursing practice. The proposal includes: problem description, resolution, implementation, plans, evaluation plans and proposed dissemination of findings. The professional capstone project proposal needs to reflect synthesis and integration of course content and professional practice. The capstone project is guided by the baccalaureate program student learner outcomes.	3

*Total RN to BSN Core Credits: 36*

**Requirement for Graduation:**

PSY 363	Introduction to Probability and Statistics*	Also JUS 363, POS 363, and SOC 363. This course focuses upon elementary theories of probability, distribution, and testing of statistical hypotheses. Practical experience is provided in the application of statistical methods. Prerequisite: MAT 120 or equivalent.	3
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OR

BIO 363	Biostatistics*	Introduction to experimental design, and basic concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics including descriptive methods and graphing, binomial and Gaussian probability theory, estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, correlation, and regression. One-, two- and multi-group parametric and nonparametric methods will be introduced. Sampling distributions covered include the Z, t, F, and Chi-squared distributions. Prerequisite: MAT 121 or higher.	3
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\*RN to BSN students must take statistics as a requirement of graduation. The course may be included in the maximum number of transfer credits or taken as upper-division at Grand Canyon University.

*Total RN to BSN Core Credits: 36*

*Other Transfer, General Education, Elective, or Certification Credits: 84*

*Total Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) Credits: 120*