



**Virginia State University
Department of Nursing Student Manual
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Registered Nurse Online Completion Program
Virginia State University, Virginia 23806**

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Introduction

Welcome to Virginia State University (VSU) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Registered Nurse (RN) Online Completion Program. We are pleased you have chosen VSU to further your education endeavors. Here at VSU, we are committed to developing successful and competent leaders for today's healthcare system. This handbook has been designed to help students understand the vision, mission, and academic requirements for this program.

Overview

Virginia State University has received approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to offer an online Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The program began in Spring 2020 with the first cohort of RN students. The BSN program is designed for Registered Nurses with an associate degree or a hospital diploma as the highest degree in nursing. This is the first completely online degree completion program at VSU. The focus will be nursing in rural settings.

Vision Statement

The Department of Nursing vision is to fulfill the vision of VSU such that the program will “foster sustained excellence as a Preeminent Public Land-Grant university providing access to higher education and a holistic transformative learning experience to produce world-class leaders and scholars for a diverse state, national, and global workforce.”

Mission Statement

The Department of Nursing mission is to fulfill the mission of VSU such that the program will “prepare informed citizens, globally competitive leaders and highly effective ethical professionals through evidence-based patient centered experiences in rural and urban settings. These settings will prepare diverse graduates with the foundation for lifelong learning as a member of an interprofessional health care delivery team.”

Departmental Goal

The goal of the Department of Nursing is to prepare professional nurses to deliver safe and effective patient centered care across the lifespan with a focus on rural health. The department has identified four key values:

1. Integrity
 2. Collaboration
 3. Diversity
 4. Inclusion
- Integrity-developing a workforce that demonstrates ethical behavior in all settings.
 - Collaboration-developing partnerships with a variety of healthcare settings and disciplines whose purpose is patient and community care.
 - Diversity-working with a variety of cultures to deliver equitable health care.
 - Inclusion-including all segments of the population.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students will acquire knowledge, values, and competencies of the baccalaureate-prepared nurse. Students will be able to:

1. Develop the foundation for professional nursing practice with a liberal education which includes a foundation in the arts, sciences, humanities, and nursing.
2. Engage in the delivery of quality safe and effective nursing care to individuals across the lifespan within a diverse society.
3. Exhibit evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, ethics, integrity, and socially responsible nursing service to individuals in a dynamic environment.
4. Demonstrate interprofessional collaboration in creating and delivering comprehensive, culturally competent nursing care to individuals and communities.
5. Utilize evidence-based practice models in the design, implementation, and evaluation of nursing systems to foster safe and effective healthcare delivery.
6. Identify innovative evidence-based solutions to influence the health and welfare of individuals, families, groups, and communities experiencing changes in their health pattern.
7. Establish leadership and management styles which facilitate quality safe and effective nursing care within a variety of healthcare delivery systems.
8. Provide fiscal and technologically responsible nursing to individuals and communities maintaining safe and effective practice.
9. Articulate and commit to the values of self-direction for continuous professional growth.

Nursing Curriculum

The BSN in Nursing completion program is an upper level 30 credit hour program which must be completed at VSU. The RN student will transfer in up to 90 credit hours from previous academic coursework. This will total 120 credits for completion of the BSN in Nursing. Practicum experiences will be required.

Admission Process

Admission to the BSN in Nursing completion program will follow the admission policies of Virginia State University. Submit an application electronically to admissions@vsu.edu. Applicants for the BSN completion will satisfy VSU academic requirements as a transfer student. The RN student must submit evidence of completion of the associate degree in nursing or hospital diploma. The Office of Admission uses the follow guidelines for regular admissions as a transfer student:

- Applicants with at least 24 hours or more of college credit will be evaluated as a transfer student and do not have to meet the requirements of a freshman student. You do not need to submit a high school transcript. The applicant who has attended a college or university is considered for admission. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of “C” (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or above and be in good standing at the previous institutions.

RN Applicants must:

- (1) Complete and return the application for admission as a transfer student.
 - (2) Request the Registrar of all colleges attended to send official transcripts of college records.
 - (3) Request the last college attended to complete and return the Confidential Report Form.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from a combination of academic counselors, employers, and/or teachers. Please forward to admissions@vsu.edu.
 - An applicant from a country where English is not the native language is required to demonstrate a proficiency in English by submitting scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Official test scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service. Registration forms and information concerning the time and place of the TOEFL may be obtained by writing to TOEFL, Educational Testing Service, CN 6151, Princeton, NJ 08546-151, USA. An international student must provide documentation verifying resources to meet financial needs for the designated period of study at Virginia State University.

In addition to the above, a concurrent separate application is required by the Department of Nursing. In order to be admitted to the BSN program, the RN student must:

- Have completed an associate degree or hospital diploma program in professional nursing.
- Have an unencumbered license as Registered Nurse (RN) in Virginia, or from a Nurse Licensure Compact state or hold a RN license in another state and be eligible for licensure as a RN in Virginia.
- Current American Heart CPR for Healthcare Providers.
- Satisfactory criminal and sex offender background check.
- Evidence of a negative tuberculosis screening test or present a copy of a current negative chest x-ray.
- Satisfactory completion or concurrent enrollment in: Statistics (3 credits), Microbiology (4 credits), Anatomy and Physiology (8 credits), Information Systems (3 credits), and Human Growth and Development (3 credits) with a “C” or better.
- Students who are graduates of international nursing schools who are not licensed in a state, the District of Colombia, Canada, or a United States Possession or territory are required to obtain a Visa Screen Certificate issued by the Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. The student must be a licensed RN in Virginia.

Course Descriptions

AACN BSN Essentials

Ten new courses have been developed for the upper level 30-credit hour program. The program is in alignment with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2008), *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice and QSEN Competencies*.

QSEN Competencies

1. Recognize the patient or designee as the source of control and full partner in providing compassionate and coordinated patient-centered care based on respect for patient's preferences, values, and needs.
2. Function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering teamwork and collaboration through open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.
3. Integrate evidence-based practice through best current evidence with clinical expertise and patient/family preferences and values for delivery of optimal health care.
4. Use data to monitor the outcomes of care processes and use quality improvement methods to design and test changes to continuously improve the quality and safety of health care systems.
5. Promote safety to minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance.
6. Through informatics, use information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision making.

NURS 320 Transition to Professional Nursing Practice – 3 credit hours

This course introduces the Registered Nurse (RN) student to the role of the baccalaureate prepared nurse generalist. Through an examination of values, ethics, and practice standards, the RN will promote competencies for safe and effective nursing care. Concepts essential to professional nursing practice will be analyzed.

Prerequisite: Admission to the program.

NURS 321 Integrated Health Assessment – 3 credit hours

This course focuses on comprehensive health assessment. Assessment skills are applied to the practice of nursing across the lifespan. The focus is on assessing cultural, psychosocial, behavioral, physiological, and spiritual health parameters to maintain homeostasis.

Pharmacological principles essential to promoting clinical reasoning will be examined.

Laboratory experiences are provided for comprehensive skill acquisition.

Prerequisite: Admission to the program.

NURS 322 Theoretical Foundations – 3 credit hours

This course reviews models, concepts, and theories that serve as the basis for professional nursing. The RN will demonstrate an understanding of nursing theorists' approach to patient centered care across the lifespan in diverse settings. Historical, legal, cultural, economic, and social factors that affect nursing and healthcare delivery are analyzed. The RN will develop a framework for future nursing practice.

Prerequisite: Admission to the program.

NURS 323 Healthcare Trends and Policy – 3 credit hours

This course introduces the RN to contemporary changes in the internal and external environment affecting nursing practice. The RN will examine trends in healthcare and regulatory policies to establish an appreciation of factors influencing professional practice in a global society. Core

concepts of quality and safety in nursing education will be analyzed. Legislative processes on the state and national level are examined.

Prerequisite: NURS 320

NURS 324 Evidence-based Practice – 3 credit hours

This course serves as the foundation for the use of the research process to critically analyze research studies. Through an introduction to the language and skills of evidence-based nursing practice, the RN student will focus on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods designs. Through an exploration of current and past studies, the RN student is introduced to the use of data as the basis for decision making in the healthcare environment.

Prerequisite: NURS 320, 321, 322

NURS 420 Alterations in Health – 3 credit hours

This course focuses on the wellness-illness continuum across the lifespan with an emphasis on disease process and the bodies' response to illness. Principle of genetics and genomics as determinants of health are examined. Disease prevention, early diagnosis and rehabilitation strategies are examined. Health patterns across the lifespan will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: NURS 323, 324

NURS 421 Nursing Informatics – 3 credit hours

This course explores the use of informatics within healthcare delivery systems. An examination of electronic health records management, practice standards, and data analysis will prepare the RN student to utilize informatics within the dynamic healthcare environment. Information literacy and its application to safe and effective nursing care will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: NURS 323, 324

NURS 422 Population and Global Health/Practicum – 3 credit hours

This course will emphasize health promotion and disease prevention within communities. The communities consist of individuals, families, groups, and societies within a local, state, national, or international setting. Principles of epidemiology within vulnerable populations will be highlighted. Community based social justice, cultural sensitivity, health disparities, and equity of care will be addressed. A practicum experience will focus on nursing's role in health promotion, disease, and injury prevention preferably within selected practice settings.

Prerequisite: NURS 323, 324

NURS 423 Leadership and Healthcare Management/Practicum – 3 credit hours

This course focuses on evidence-based leadership and management theories, principles and models. The RN student will analyze current practices related to the leadership role within healthcare systems. Interdisciplinary communication and collaboration will be examined. Quality management and safe patient centered care will be emphasized. A practicum experience will focus on the nurses' role within the attributes of leadership in selected practice settings.

Prerequisite: NURS 420, 421, 422

NURS 424 Financial Management and the Healthcare Delivery System – 3 credit hours

This course examines the effects of social, cultural, economic, legal and political factors affecting healthcare delivery and practice. Resources and best practice methods for financial

health services are identified. Healthcare reimbursement principles as related to the delivery of cost-effective healthcare services in a variety of settings will be discussed.

Prerequisites: NURS 420, 421, 422

Part-Time Online Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credit Hours	Credit Hours
First Semester		1 st Eight Weeks	2 nd Eight Weeks
NURS 320	Transition to Professional Practice	3	
NURS 321	Integrated Health Assessment		3
		Total	6
Second Semester		1 st Eight Weeks	2 nd Eight Weeks
NURS 322	Theoretical Foundations	3	
NURS 323	Healthcare Trends and Policy		3
		Total	6
Third Semester		1 st Eight Weeks	2 nd Eight Weeks
NURS 324	Evidenced-based Practice	3	
NURS 420	Alterations in Health		3
		Total	6
Fourth Semester		1 st Eight Weeks	2 nd Eight Weeks
NURS 421	Nursing Informatics	3	
NURS 422	Population and Global Health/Practicum		3
		Total	6
Fifth Semester		1 st Eight Weeks	2 nd Eight Weeks
NURS 423	Leadership and Healthcare Management/Practicum	3	
NURS 424	Financial Management and the Healthcare Delivery System		3
		Total	6

Total credits for upper-level BSN curriculum completed at VSU = 30 credit hours.

Program Requirements

The RN student is eligible to transfer in 90 credit hours from their previous general education and RN coursework. Below lists the alignment of previous academic coursework.

Category	Credit Hours
Major*	
Nursing Preparation (RN)	36
General Education*	
English Composition	6
Global Studies	3
History	3
Humanities	3
Literature	3
Mathematics	6
Natural Science with Lab	4
Social Science	3
Wellness/Health	2
Total General Education	33
Co-Requisites*	
Anatomy and Physiology	8
Microbiology	4
Growth and Development (Lifespan)	3
Information Systems	3
Statistics	3
Total Pre-Requisites	21
Upper Level Nursing Courses**	
NURS 320-Transition to Professional Practice	3
NURS 321-Integrated Health Assessment	3
NURS 322-Theoretical Foundations	3
NURS 323-Healthcare Trends and Policy	3
NURS 324-Evidence-based Practice	3
NURS 420-Alterations in Health	3
NURS 421-Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 422-Population and Global Health Practicum	3
NURS 423-Leadership & Healthcare Management Practicum	3
NURS 424-Financial Management & the Healthcare Delivery System	3
Total Upper-Level Nursing Courses	30
Total Credits for the BSN in Nursing	120

*Can be completed at VSU.

**Required courses to be completed at VSU.

Overall Grading Scale

Grade	Description	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A	Superior Performance	90-100	4
B	Good Performance	80-89	3
C	Average Performance	70-79	2
D	Poor Performance	60-69	1
F	Failure	0-59	0

Course Delivery

Course Delivery Method

The course is delivered via distance learning and will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course duration is eight weeks via course materials and access to the online Learning Management System (LMS), **Blackboard**. Forum questions will be presented in a threaded forum throughout the eight-week compressed term. All assignments to include, readings, group work, examinations, and discussions will be handled digitally through the LMS, Blackboard. Each course utilizes many Blackboard features through *Trojan Link*. If additional help is needed accessing Blackboard contact *VSU Technology Services* at 804-524-2000 or 804-524-5210 or the VSU Student Helpdesk at <http://www.vsu.edu/techservices/get-help/student-help-desk.php> After hours assistance is available at 877-889-7792.

Technology Requirements

Each course is an online asynchronous courses. Students will need the use of a computer/laptop/iPad. Please avoid the use of a chrome book or smartphone. If students do not have a computer at home, computers may be used in the school's library, Hunter-McDaniel's open computer laboratory, or the student's local library. On occasion, the university may provide a computer on loan. Please note, most local libraries restrict use to 30-60 minutes. Each student must have a VSU e-mail address. Communicate with the professor through the use of your VSU e-mail account. Check this account regularly.

Due to COVID-19, there is limited access to computers on campus. If you are having difficulty with computer or internet access, please contact Dr. K. Faison at kfaison@vsu.edu or 804-524-6899.

Academic Standards

Academic Honesty/Integrity

All work should be performed without falsification, misrepresentation, plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, and receiving unauthorized or illegitimate assistance from any other person. Plagiarism includes posting others' ideas as one's own. All work should be that of the student. Evidence of plagiarism or any type of dishonesty will result in serious consequences.

Attendance Policy

Students should regularly log into class and participate in course learning activities as set forth in the course syllabus. Students who are un-expectantly absent should notify the course faculty as soon as possible.

Course Practicum Requirements: Health and Immunization Policy

Students completing practicum requirements in NURS 422-Population and Global Health/Practicum and NURS 423-Leadership and Healthcare Management/Practicum must satisfy the health and immunization requirements established by the practicum site.

Course Syllabus

Each course will have a syllabus attached to the respective Blackboard site. You can locate the syllabus within the course shell. The syllabus contains important information which includes a description of the course, course requirements, critical learning experiences, and faculty expectations of student performance to satisfactorily complete the course. Each course has its own unique syllabus and is available the first day of learning.

Grades

Students in the RN-BSN program must earn a final grade of “C” in all nursing courses.

Graduation Requirements

All requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BSN) must be met. A grade of “C” or better must be earned in each nursing course. Students must follow the VSU policy for graduation and fulfill all VSU requirements.

VSU Student Handbook: Grievance Procedure

Students who are grieving their final grade should request a meeting with the course instructor and explain the reason. If the student is not satisfied, the student should submit a request to meet with the program chair and provide in writing the reason for the meeting. Supportive documentation should be provided. Students who remain dissatisfied with the course outcome should follow the VSU guidelines for student grievances. The link is below:

<https://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/student-activities/student-handbook.pdf>

Late Work

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all work is submitted successfully in the correct format by the identified due date and time. The student is responsible for contacting faculty prior to the assignment due date and explain the extenuating circumstance. Accepted late work will lose five points per week from the original grade. Late work submitted without prior notification will not receive more than a 70 (“C”) grade. It is the faculty’s discretion to decide if make-up work will be given.

Progression

Students enrolled in the program must complete the required courses in a sequential manner. Students who were previously unsuccessful in a pre-requisite nursing course cannot progress to the next course without a final grade of C. Students may withdraw from a course as set forth in the VSU student guidelines. Students may earn a grade of incomplete in any required course in

the Nursing major providing the student is passing the course. In order to progress from one semester to the next, a final grade of C or better is required.

Withdrawal

Students dropping a nursing course will follow the university deadlines. In order to withdraw, the student should notify the Chair, in writing of their intent to withdraw. If a student finds it necessary to withdraw from the VSU, an application to withdraw from school should be filed with the Registrar's Office. Students who voluntarily withdraw and wish to return at a later date are required to formally request, in writing permission to return.

Academic Support Services

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Virginia State University follows all regulations under the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990." The Department of Nursing, following ADA guidelines, will "provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities." Learning disabilities are included in this Act. It is the responsibility of the student to disclose the disability. Reasonable accommodations cannot be made unless the instructor receives documentation of the disability and, in some cases, instructions or suggestions for making necessary accommodations. For further information regarding disability services and student/faculty responsibilities go to <http://www.vsu.edu/student-life/support-and-resources/students-with-disabilities/index.php/>.

The Virginia State University Student Accessibility Office (SAO) is located in Room 101 Memorial Hall (804-524-5061). Students are encouraged to contact the SAO with questions, concerns, or when they require assistance. When any issues arise pertaining to ADA guidelines, the Department of Nursing will refer the situation to the ADA office for evaluation and that office will issue a report.

Computer Requirements

This is a completely online program. Access to a laptop or personal computer (PC) is necessary for the nursing program. The learning management system required for each course is Blackboard. As a student enrolled in the university, you will be enrolled in the appropriate section of Blackboard. You will also need access to Broadband/Wi-Fi services. The course syllabus will list specific computer requirements beyond the above.

Learning Management System

Blackboard 9.1 is the learning management system which provides access to the online nursing curriculum. As a student at VSU, you will have access. To review the tutorial for Blackboard, please follow the link:

How to navigate Blackboard:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_aZCVQYSj0&feature=youtu.be&list=PLontYaReEU1seUE3ACG3sEc3zR7Br7URU

Student Tutorials:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLontYaReEU1seUE3ACG3sEc3zR7Br7URU>

Netiquette

Faculty and students will maintain civilized, professional and effective communication in the online environment and email exchanges. Appropriate netiquette will be used when interacting with each other. Written communication will be conducted using standard business English which includes:

- Keep your questions and comments relevant to the discussion topic. If another participant posts a comment or question that is off topic, do not reply. The instructor will reply in private to the student.
- Treat the other students in the forum in a polite and respectful manner.
- Model the same standards of behavior online you would follow in a face-to-face discussion.
- Do not use ALL CAPS when posting as this is considered "shouting."
- Do not "flame" others in forums. Flaming is the "act of responding in a highly critical, sarcastic, or ridiculing manner."

Tutoring

The university provides access to 24-hour online tutoring through **Smarthinking.com**. Access can be obtained through your Blackboard LMS site. You can request a tutor for many subject areas to include a writing review section designed to enable your success. For further information, visit the Smarthinking website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk3N6jkI1t0>

VSU Website: www.vsu.edu

You can access the following services directly from the website:

Academics

- Degree Programs-all majors at VSU.
- Library-access to the online portal.
- Academic Calendar-important dates for each semester.
- Academic Catalogs-current and past VSU catalogs online.
- Services and Support-locations for student services in support of the academic environment to promote academic success.
- Student Academic Code-code for academic integrity.
- Registrar-current course offerings, registration, transcripts, forms, and graduation information.

Financial Aid

- Types of financial aid.
- Complete the FAFSA online.
- Apply for loans.
- Documents and forms.
- Resources.

Trojan Links (Access from the VSU website under Resources)

- Banner-review your courses, financial requirements, transcript, and grades.
- Blackboard-access the learning management system.
- Student Email System: access the VSU email system.
- Reset Password-instructions on how to change your password.
- Mandatory Student Training-required for access to VSU resources.
- How-To: frequently asked questions.

Meet the Faculty



Dr. Karen Faison
Professor/Chair
804-524-6899
kfaison@vsu.edu

Dr. Faison: BSN, Hampton University; MSN/FNP-The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Certificate in Health Administration, Old Dominion University; Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. Certifications: Advance Practice Registered Nurse and Certified Nurse Educator.



Dr. Stephanie W. Terry
Associate Professor
Adjunct
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Dr. Terry: ASN, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College; BSN, Old Dominion University; MSN, Old Dominion University; Ph.D., Capella University. Certification: Certified Nurse Educator.

Resources

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2008). Retrieved at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Education-Resources/AACN-Essentials>

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (2019). Retrieved at <https://sacscoc.org>

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (2019). Retrieved at <https://schev.edu>

www.qsen.org

www.vsu.edu

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