

# Nursing

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1610 Ben Graves Drive  
Telephone: 256.824.6345  
Email: nursing@uah.edu

**Dean:**

Marsha Howell Adams, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Professor

## Mission

Educate and inspire individuals to become nurse leaders who act with integrity, discover through scientific methods, and advocate for the best health care experiences of people and communities in a complex and evolving health care environment. In collaboration with our university colleagues and community partners, we are committed to excellence through our teaching, scholarship, practice, and service.

## Vision

To have a global reputation for transforming health care through innovative nursing practice, education, and research.

## Core Values

- Integrity - Resolutely adhering to moral, ethical, and professional standards.
- Inspiration - Encouraging, role-modeling, and mentoring others to pursue their professional dreams.
- Caring - Acting with compassion and respecting all persons by embracing cultural humility, diversity, and person-centered care.
- Excellence - Pursuing and achieving goals of the highest caliber.
- Wellness - Maximizing well-being in different states of health.

## Degrees and Certificates Offered

The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees. The College of Nursing also offers a Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, and a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education. The bachelor's program includes a track for students who are completing their initial nursing education (pre-licensure) and a track for students currently licensed as registered nurses (RN-BSN).

## Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program offered by the College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The undergraduate program is also approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing.

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The BSN degree includes a track for students who are completing their initial nursing education (pre-licensure) and a track for students currently licensed as registered nurses (RN-BSN).

The undergraduate pre-licensure program prepares graduates to assume entry-level positions in a variety of health care settings. The program is divided into two components: the lower and upper divisions. Lower division general studies (prerequisite) courses provide a broad background in general education and form the foundation for the professional nursing component of the program. Upper division courses provide the theoretical and practical basis for nursing practice in the complex U.S. health care system. In addition to focusing on essentials of nursing in the hospital including the intensive care area, the curriculum also emphasizes community and primary care. Opportunities to provide care to diverse clients are provided. Use of technology, including simulation and telehealth is integrated throughout the program. The program prepares graduates for professional positions immediately after graduation and provides a firm foundation for graduate study. Students who earn the BSN degree are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The guiding framework for the BSN Program is the *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice*.

The RN-BSN program is specifically designed for Registered Nurses with a diploma or associates degree and is offered online. Students who enroll in the full-time option may complete the nursing component of the program in one year. Part-time options are available as well. The college awards up to 42 semester hours of validated nursing credit to each registered nurse upon successful completion of the first semester.

A RN-MSN option is available for students who wish to continue to graduate education. More detailed information about opportunities for accelerated studies may be obtained from the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs 256.824.6669.

## Program Objectives

Upon completion of the BSN program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Practice nursing as a generalist using the nursing process and clinical reasoning based on ethical, legal, and professional standards and principles.
2. Translate research and utilize evidence based practice to promote quality healthcare across diverse, vulnerable populations, and cultures.
3. Examine healthcare policy, care delivery models, and organizational systems for current and future healthcare needs within a clinical setting.
4. Demonstrate characteristics of leadership and accountability to promote effective interprofessional collaboration in healthcare systems.
5. Display proficiency in the use of patient care technologies, healthcare information systems, and communication devices to support safe and competent nursing practice.
6. Engage in lifelong learning and participate in professional activities that enhance the nursing profession.
7. Recognize the nurse's role in bio-immunogenetic technology to promote safe and competent nursing practice.

## Advising and Assistance

The focus of advising in the College of Nursing is to assist students to successfully make progress toward their educational objectives. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program is divided into two components: the lower division and the upper division. All students taking classes at UAH in the lower division (100 and 200 level classes), those seeking admission to the upper division (UAH or transfer students), and Registered Nurses (RNs) are advised in the College of Nursing Office of Undergraduate Programs. Advisors in the Nursing Office of Undergraduate Programs assist students to define and develop realistic educational and career plans. In addition, they monitor progress toward educational and career goals, approve all designated educational transactions such as schedules, drop/adds, withdrawals, and they maintain advising records for each student. Advisors also refer students to other campus resources when needed.

Once students are admitted to BSN Program and enroll in upper division nursing courses, they meet with faculty who will provide guidance for future academic success, educational endeavors, and employment opportunities. Group advising occurs each semester in upper division for general academic progression.

All students use the the Degree Evaluation tool (CAPP) in Banner Self Service to track their progress toward meeting the requirements of the program of study (POS).

Majors in Nursing

- Nursing, BSN (<http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-bsn>)
- Nursing, RN-BSN (<http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/nursing/rn>)

NUR 000 - NURSING-CREDIT BY VALIDATION

Semester Hours: 3-42

NUR 001 - NURSING TESTING BLOCK

Semester Hours: 0

Nursing Testing Block is a common block of time for students in different cohorts to take their examinations.

NUR 102 - MULTIDIMENSIONS OF NURSING

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed for the student who has declared nursing as a major. Emphasis will be placed on the role of professional nurses working with clients and other health care professionals. The evolution of nursing as a profession will be examined and the student introduced to the health care delivery system.

NUR 201 - MULTIDIM ASPECTS HL CAREER OPT

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed for the student who wishes to explore a career in the health care professions as a potential career path. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of health care providers working in partnership with clients to promote health states and prevent disease.

NUR 202 - HEALTHY LIVING LIFESPAN

Semester Hours: 3

This class will focus on health and wellness across the lifespan, with an emphasis on promoting healthy living and preventing illness. It is designed to develop health literacy and to identify ways to put healthy ideas into practice. Diverse perceptions and beliefs related to health are explored and strategies to optimize health are presented.

**NUR 220 - HEALTH PROMOTION NUR MAJORS**

Semester Hours: 3

The focus of this class is on health and high-level wellness across the lifespan, with an emphasis on promoting healthy living and preventing illness. Diverse perceptions and beliefs related to health and wellness are explored, and ways to put healthy ideas into practice are applied. Medical terminology to improve healthcare communication is incorporated into the course.

**NUR 301 - CONCEPTS IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

This course will focus on development using concepts and theories basic to the art and science of nursing. Students are introduced to the concepts of communication, teaching/learning, clinical decision making, ethical, legal, nursing history, and philosophy for knowledge development of the discipline. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 303, 304, 309, and 311.

**NUR 302 - NURSING & HEALTH PROMOTION**

Semester Hours: 3

Focus on nursing, health, and wellness across the life span. Emphasis on health promotion and prevention of illness. Strategies to optimize health are presented. Perceptions and beliefs related to health, illness, disease, and cultural diversity are explored as are mechanisms for promoting health through politics and the health care delivery system.

**NUR 303 - HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Semester Hours: 3

Focus on holistic assessment of culturally diverse clients across the life span. Communication & psychomotor skills are developed in clinical laboratory settings with an emphasis on normal findings and health promotion.

**NUR 303L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 304 - APP PATHOPHYSIOLOGY LIFESPAN**

Semester Hours: 3

The course is designed to help the student build on previous knowledge of anatomy and physiology and microbiology. Adaptations and alterations in health status throughout the lifespan are emphasized. Students explore the implications of lifestyle to pathology within a nursing framework, and learn to relate normal body functioning to the pathophysiological changes that occur in, and as a result of disease.

**NUR 305 - NUR PROC MENTAL HLTH/ILLNESS**

Semester Hours: 4

Nursing process in the promotion of psychosocial integrity. Emphasis is on the therapeutic use of self through providing interventions for individuals and groups in a variety of settings. Prerequisites: NUR 310 and NUR 312 and NUR 321.

**NUR 305L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 307 - INQRY TO EVIDNC BASED NURS PRC**

Semester Hours: 3

This course identifies various modes of inquiry and critical analysis used in the development of nursing science. Explore evidence based models to examine the evidence from a variety of research designs used to formulate nursing decisions. Emphasis is on identifying and synthesizing the best evidence to solve complex health problems in order to deliver safe, competent nursing care to diverse populations. Prerequisites: NUR 310 and NUR 312 and NUR 321.

**NUR 308 - NURS CARE ADULTS ALTER HLTH I**

Semester Hours: 9

This course focuses on the application of the nursing process in the collaborative nursing management of adult clients experiencing simple to complex physiological health alterations. Clinical experiences provide opportunities for beginning to intermediate clinical reasoning in the acute care environment. The embodiment of professionalism and professional values are emphasized. Prerequisites: NUR 310 and NUR 312 and NUR 321.

**NUR 308L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 309 - CLINICAL INFORMATICS**

Semester Hours: 2

This course is designed to introduce clinical informatics as a tool to improve healthcare systems through safe, ethical, and evidence-based practice. Advances in technology, data management, and decision support software are explored. Competencies in basic computer skills are also included in the course to improve information literacy. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 301, 303, 304, and 311.

NUR 310 - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE NURS I

Semester Hours: 6

This course will begin the process of learning foundational nursing skills to be used in nursing practice. Psychomotor nursing skills needed to assist individuals meet basic human needs will be taught with expectation the student will demonstrate competency in performing skills. Laboratory and clinical experiences are included. Prerequisites: NUR 301, NUR 303, NUR 304, NUR 309, NUR 311.

NUR 310L - CLINICAL

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 311 - CLINICAL CALCULATIONS

Semester Hour: 1

In this course, students will learn to accurately calculate medication dosages. Testing in this course will establish minimal medication calculation proficiency required to progress to the second semester of the nursing program. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 301, 304, 303, and 309.

NUR 312 - GERO NURSING CARE

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to focus on current health care issues affecting the older adult. Physical, psychological, sociocultural, and spiritual aspects of aging are examined within the context of the family and society. The course applies the nursing process with emphasis on optimal health for the older adult. Prerequisites: NUR 301, 303, 304, 309, and 311. Prerequisite with concurrency: NUR 310 and 321.

NUR 312L - CLINICAL

Semester Hours: 0

This is the clinical component of the Gerontological Nursing Care course. The course will focus on current health care issues affecting the older adult. Physical, psychological, sociocultural, and spiritual aspects of aging are examined within the context of the family and society. The course applies the nursing process with emphasis on optimal health for the older adult.

NUR 321 - PHARMACOLOGY IN NURS

Semester Hours: 3

This course comprises pharmacological concepts incorporating an overview of historical and current issues in drug therapy. Pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, contraindications and precautions for prototype drugs for multiple body systems are presented. Major emphasis is placed on nursing management practices using nursing process as well as the nurses' role in optimizing reliable medication administration. Prerequisites: NUR 301, 303, 304, 309, 311.

NUR 336 - SPIRITUALITY IN NURSING

Semester Hours: 3

Spirituality aspects of client, family and community care are the focus of this course. The course reviews the history of spirituality in nursing care. The nurses' role in meeting the spiritual needs of clients throughout the lifespan is explored.

NUR 339 - INFO MGMT IN HEALTHCARE

Semester Hours: 3

Provides experience in the use of basic and versatile software programs which have wide applicability within nursing practice and within the students' educational process. Elective, open to all university students. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

NUR 390 - INDEPENDENT STUDY

Semester Hours: 1-4

Individualized independent study of specific nursing problem under sponsorship of a nursing faculty member with special preparation in the field. Elective.

NUR 400 - SPECIAL TOPICS

Semester Hours: 3

NUR 401 - NURS CARE ADULTS ALTER HLTH II

Semester Hours: 4

This course explores the evidence-based collaborative nursing management of clients experiencing complex physiological health alterations. Clinical experiences will provide opportunities for advanced clinical reasoning in the acute and critical care environments. Prerequisites: NUR 305 and NUR 307 and NUR 308.

NUR 401L - CLINICAL

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 402 - POPULATION BASED HLTH CARE**

Semester Hours: 3

Promotion of health, prevention of disease in at-risk aggregate populations. Examines complex problems and health care policy. Open to all university students.

**NUR 402L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 403 - FAM CENTER/PARENT-INFANT NUR**

Semester Hours: 4

This course explores internal and external factors, which impact the health of the family during the antepartal, intrapartal, postpartal and neonatal periods of childbearing. Emphasis is placed on nursing care of these clients, normal physiology, pathophysiology, psychological and sociocultural needs, and risk identification and reduction. Prerequisites: NUR 305 and NUR 307 and NUR 308 and NUR 321.

**NUR 403L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 404 - FAMILY-CENTER NUR CARE CHILDRE**

Semester Hours: 4

This course is designed to introduce the concept of family centered pediatric care that is developmentally appropriate for a culturally diverse population. Clinical experiences in selected agencies. Prerequisites: NUR 301 and NUR 307 and NUR 308 and NUR 321.

**NUR 404L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 405 - COMMUNITY HEALTH NURS**

Semester Hours: 4

The course explores the community as client and teaches concepts and knowledge necessary to promote the health of the public and communities. Emphasis is on community health theory, individual, family, and community assessment, aspects of epidemiology, program planning and evaluation, trends and issues, legislation, ethics, research, health care economics and disaster management. Prerequisites: NUR 401 and NUR 403 and NUR 404.

**NUR 405L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 406 - LEADERSHIP & MGMT IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Describes and analyzes selected theories of management and leadership in health care systems with focus on broadening students' knowledge base and skills as they relate to entry-level nursing management. Organization structures and dynamics as well as pertinent issues and trends are addressed.

**NUR 407 - PROF PRACTICE IN NURSING II**

Semester Hours: 8

The focus of this course is the leadership and management functions of professional nursing. Essential skills are communication, interprofessional collaboration, delegation, coordination, and the application of evidence-based practice models. Clinical experiences will focus on performance of the professional nurse role in a concentrated practicum. Prerequisites: NUR 401 and NUR 403 and NUR 404.

**NUR 407L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 408 - PROF PRAC IN NURS III SEMINAR**

Semester Hours: 2

The purpose of this class is to facilitate the synthesis of knowledge, the application of critical thinking to decisions about patient care, and to ensure safe and competent nursing practice. Test-taking skills and time management concepts will be applied in preparation of the NCLEX-RN licensure exam. Prerequisites: NUR 407.

**NUR 410 - TRANSITION INTO PROFESS ROLES**

Semester Hours: 3

For the registered nurse student, designed to synthesize previous experiences in nursing with selected theoretical knowledge. Examines the multi-dimensional role of the professional nurse in health systems. Through analysis of paradigm case(s) and development of a professional portfolio, the student evaluates his/her professional practice and develops goals designed to guide learning and professional development. Philosophical, social, political, legal, and ethical issues inherent in the practice of professional nursing in health systems. Thirty-two hours of nursing credit for prior learning will be conferred upon successful completion of this transition course.

## NUR 411 - THEORETICAL APPL IN PROF NURS

Semester Hours: 3

Designed for registered nurse students to synthesize knowledge gained from previous nursing experience when analyzing theories, issues and concepts that influence professional nursing practice. Theoretical concepts, which influence critical thinking, are applied to the nursing process. Analysis of normal processes and professional nursing responses to alterations in life processes across the lifespan are examined. Caring for diverse clients is emphasized. Ethical and legal issues which impact the care for client systems are examined when synthesizing theoretical and nursing practice issues.

## NUR 412 - CARE FOR AGGREGATES, FAM &amp; POP

Semester Hours: 7

Designed for registered nurse students to apply theoretical concepts related to primary, secondary, and tertiary care of aggregates. Emphasis is on application of the nursing process in promoting community health for at-risk aggregate populations and is delivered in an on-line format. Course objectives are designed to meet the individual learning needs of the student in delivering and managing care of selected families with emphasis on the aggregate. Prerequisites: NUR 339 and NUR 410.

## NUR 412L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

## NUR 413 - NUR LEADERSHIP PROF PRACT

Semester Hours: 5

4 Course/1 Clinical. Designed for registered nurse students, this course focuses on the development and enhancement of leadership skills for the professional nurse in a variety of culturally diverse health care systems. Exploration of theories related to organizational models, change, and critical thinking; leadership in directing and controlling care; ethical, legal, and political influences on leadership; and enhancing self-awareness of leadership styles. Students are provided opportunities to apply nursing leadership concepts through a case study experience and in a clinical practice setting by conducting a clinical project. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

## NUR 414 - HTH ASSESS PRACTICING PROF NUR

Semester Hours: 3

Lecture/Lab 2 lecture/1 lab for the registered nurse student, the focus is on holistic health assessment of culturally diverse clients across the lifespan. Communication and psychomotor skills are developed in clinical laboratory settings.

## NUR 414L - CLINICAL

Semester Hours: 0

## NUR 415 - HONORS DIRECTED RESEARCH

Semester Hours: 2

This course allows for implementation of the student's research proposal as developed in the Honors section of NUR 307. The focus is on data collection and preliminary data analysis. The seminar format will provide students access to expert researchers.

## NUR 416 - HONORS RESEARCH SEMINAR

Semester Hour: 1

The focus of this seminar is completion of final research report, as begun in NUR 307 and NUR 415.

## NUR 417 - NURS CARE VUL POP

Semester Hours: 4

This course investigates factors related to increased vulnerability arising from threats to well-being for selected populations. Factors will include individual characteristics and conditions (such as profound and chronic illnesses, genetic factors, health behaviors), those attributable to group identity (such as age or socioeconomic status), and those due to environmental exposures (such as high risk occupations, exposure to toxins and pollution, and occurrences of nature). Students will examine strategies aimed at risk reduction and improvement in disparities in outcomes. Relevant professional and agency/organizational resources are explored. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

## NUR 418 - GLOBAL HEALTH: INTERN'L STUDY

Semester Hours: 3

This course will focus on global health concepts and issues, and on selected international health care systems in comparison to the U.S. health care system. These systems will be examined and analyzed in relation to economic, social, cultural, policy, and environmental influences. Culmination of the course will center on international experiences with health care facilities, historical and cultural influences, and policy making bodies in another country. This course is an accepted elective in the nursing program (not all electives are offered each year).

**NUR 419 - SCHOLRY INQUIRY IN NURSING PRA**

Semester Hours: 3

Focuses on the various modes of inquiry used in the development of nursing science. Emphasis on the critical examination of nursing research including methodologies, utilization, and theoretical bases.

**NUR 420 - EVIDENCE BASED NURS PRACTICE**

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on developing the nurse to be an "evidence user" for the purpose of improving healthcare outcomes. Emphasis is on the critical analysis of evidence to be used in formulating nursing decisions and the design of client care guidelines. Structured for the registered nurse student.

**NUR 421 - AC CARE NURS RNBSN**

Semester Hours: 3

The nursing process is applied to clients experiencing physiological health alterations requiring complex and collaborative nursing strategies and appropriate resource management. Application experiences are focused in the acute care environment. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

**NUR 422 - COMMUNITY HEALTH FOR PRACTICING RN**

Semester Hours: 6

4 course/1 clinical. This course is designed for registered nurses to apply theoretical concepts related to primary, secondary, and tertiary care of families and aggregates. Emphasis is on application of the nursing process in promoting community health for at-risk populations. Application activities are designed to meet individual learning needs of the registered nurse student in delivering and managing care of selected families with emphasis on the aggregate. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

**NUR 423 - EVIDENCE BASED RN**

Semester Hours: 3

This course fosters the application of the best clinical evidence into practice in order to promote improvement in healthcare experiences and patient outcomes. Various modes of scientific inquiry used in the development of nursing science are incorporated into a survey of research techniques, methodologies, and ethical concerns. This will enable students to select and evaluate appropriate information relevant to evidence based practice. Students will develop skills in the use of electronic databases to facilitate acquisition of current information. Emphasis is placed on the critical analysis of evidence to be used in formulating nursing decisions and the design of client care guidelines. Prerequisite: NUR 410.

**NUR 426 - SPACE LIFE SCIENCES**

Semester Hours: 3

Theories and concepts of contemporary issues in health and nursing related to space life sciences.

**NUR 427 - INTRODUCTION TO FORENSICS**

Semester Hours: 3

This course provides an overview of the field of forensic nursing. Concepts of care for victims and family members of violence, abuse, traumatic accidents, and criminal activity are discussed. Current healthcare practices and medical/legal/ethical issues are reviewed. Elective, open to all university students.

**NUR 428 - GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Nursing care of older adults in multiple settings. Issues and trends are incorporated.

**NUR 430 - HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES/LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES**

Semester Hours: 3

Description and analysis of contemporary issues regarding the health care workforce. Particular focus will be placed on the multifaceted nature of health care workforce shortages. Various models for analysis of workforce issues will be used and strategies being used will be examined. An evaluation of the nurse leader role in creating positive work environments and implementing solutions concludes the student experience.

**NUR 434 - PALLIATIVE CARE**

Semester Hours: 3

Palliative care is when there is no longer a medical treatment or cure for a physical problem. This palliative care course includes meeting the physical, emotional, social cultural and spiritual needs of individuals and their families. A course focus will be coping, grief, bereavement pain relief and managing living implications for individuals with life-threatening illnesses. There will be recognition of the importance of individuality, vulnerability, and resilience in the quality of living during the dying process.

**NUR 437 - NURSING AS A POLITICAL FORCE**

Semester Hours: 3

Overview of the legislative process and legislation relative to health care issues. The role of the professional nurse in the political climate is explored. Elective, open to all university students.

**NUR 439 - NURSING MEDICAL MISSIONS**

Semester Hours: 3

This course will focus on global health and humanitarian concepts and issues, and the nursing care needed to impact those issues. These issues will be examined and analyzed in relation to the mission country's economic, social, cultural, policy and environmental influences. Culmination of the course will center on international experiences with supervised nursing care for a medical mission in another country. This course is an accepted elective in the Nursing program.