

Welcome to the Department of Nursing at Pittsburg State University

The faculty, staff, and I would like to extend to you a warm welcome. We congratulate you on your decision to continue your education in nursing. Our Department of Nursing offers an excellent program of study that can help you attain your personal and professional goals. We are proud of our baccalaureate and master's degree nursing programs, which are both fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Our RN to BSN/MSN track is designed for the working adult. Classes are accessible both full-time and part-time offered through convenient scheduling and technology.

We wish you the very best throughout your education and career in nursing. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Sincerely,

Mary Carol Pomatto, EdD, ARNP-CNS
Chair
Department of Nursing

General Information

The University

Pittsburg State University is one of the six Kansas universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents. The University is a major academic institution serving approximately 7000 students.

Pittsburg State University was originally organized as the Auxiliary Manual Training School in 1903. It became a four year college in 1913 and was renamed in 1923 as the Kansas State Teacher's College. The Kansas Legislature changed the name of the college to Pittsburg State University in 1977. The University has continued to flourish and now offers numerous baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

Department of Nursing

The baccalaureate program in nursing was established in 1970, and 35 students were admitted in the fall of 1971. Approximately 500 students are currently enrolled in the nursing major. All nursing students are advised by department faculty. The Master of Science in Nursing degree was established in the fall of 1993 and prepares family nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The focus for the graduate program is Family Health. The Department of Nursing is one of fourteen departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Accreditation

Pittsburg State University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The nursing program is approved by the *Kansas State Board of Nursing and received accreditation by the *Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2005 for five years.

*Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Rm. 1051
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 785-296-4929

*Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120
Phone: 202-887-6791
Email: aacn.nche.edu

Pittsburg State University is committed to a policy of educational equity. Accordingly, the University admits students, grants financial aid and scholarships, conducts all educational programs, activities, and employment practices without regard to age, marital status, ancestry or disabilities. R. 12-05-1995 Adopted 1978

Mission Statement

The mission of the nursing curricula is to prepare graduates to demonstrate excellence in practice, to meet regulatory requirements for practice, to assume leadership roles and to recognize learning as a lifelong process.

The baccalaureate and graduate programs of the Department of Nursing reflect the university's mission of teaching, scholarship and service, with teaching as the primary focus.

Members of the department engage in a wide range of scholarly, professional, practice and community service activities to meet local, regional and national needs for nursing and healthcare.

Recognizing the unique characteristics and needs of our diverse rural setting, the programs of the Department of Nursing prepare graduates to provide nursing care to individuals, families, and populations in a variety of settings.

The baccalaureate nursing curricula builds upon a foundation of the arts, sciences and humanities. The Master's curriculum builds upon the competencies of baccalaureate graduates and focuses on advanced nursing roles.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Department of Nursing is to assume a leadership role, in collaboration with the area health care and educational institutions, in providing baccalaureate nursing education to prelicensure students and degree completion registered nurses, as well as advance practice education to graduate students. To achieve the vision of a leadership role, the faculty members develop their expertise as educators and role models through life long learning, practice, service, and scholarship.

Baccalaureate Nursing Program

Description of the Program

The baccalaureate program in nursing at Pittsburg State University prepares individuals for careers in professional nursing. The program leads to the degree, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, with an upper division major in nursing. In addition, graduates have a sound academic foundation for graduate study.

Experience in health agencies and with families is an integral part of PSU nursing courses. Hospitals, home health agencies, county health departments, physician's offices, adult care homes, private homes and the public schools are examples of settings used for learning.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the program describe essential characteristics for beginning professional nurses who are prepared to:

1. Evaluate the nursing process and nursing theories to promote bio-psycho-social adaptation of persons.
2. Evaluate selected theories and content from the sciences, humanities, and nursing for application in nursing practice.
3. Incorporate historical, political, social, economic, legal, and ethical aspects of health care in professional nursing.
4. Select teaching-learning principles that promote client adaptation.
5. Participate in meeting health needs of society by communicating, collaborating, coordinating, and consulting with citizens and colleagues.
6. Value individual responsibility and accountability for nursing practice.
7. Evaluate principles of leadership in managing client care.
8. Participate in planned change to facilitate adaptation of persons.
9. Question findings of research and information systems to improve nursing practice.
10. Assess individual goals for continued personal and professional growth.

Lower Division Courses

RN-BSN students should complete the following general education courses and required education courses (#) for the nursing major prior to or concurrent with enrollment in the first upper division nursing courses. Specific courses that meet general education requirements are identified below and in the Pittsburg State University catalog.

	Credit Hours
Basic Skills	12
ENGL 101 English Composition	3
ENGL 299 Intro to Research Writing <i>or</i>	
ENGL 190 Honors English Composition	3
COMM 207 Speech Communication	3
# MATH 110 College Algebra with Review <i>or</i>	
# MATH 113 College Algebra	3
Sciences	9
BIOL 111 General Biology <i>and</i>	3
BIOL 112 General Biology Lab	2
# CHEM 107 Chemistry for the Life Sciences <i>and</i>	3
# CHEM 108 Chemistry for the Life Sciences Lab	1
Social Studies (Select One)	3
# SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology	3
Political Studies (Select one)	
POLS 101 U.S. Politics	3
POLS 324 Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
Producing and Consuming	5-6
<i>(Select one from two of the following three categories)</i>	
<i>Economy</i>	
ECON 191 Issues in Today's Economy	3
FCS 230 Consumer Education	3
<i>Technology</i>	
GT 190 Intro to Technological System	2
GT 350 Technology and Civilization.....	3
TM 350 Societal Influence of Technology.....	3
TE 551 Technological Literacy for Educators.....	3
<i>Business</i>	
ACCTG 201 Financial Accounting.....	3
MGMKT 101 Introduction to Business.....	3
CSIS 130 Computer Information Systems	3

Cultural Studies (*Select one*)

3-5

GEOG 106 World Regional Geography	3
GEOG 300 Elements of Geography.....	3
GEOG 304 Human Geography.....	3
WOMEN 399 Issues in Women’s Studies	3
MLL 124 French Language and Culture I.....	5
MLL 134 German Language and Culture I.....	5
MLL 144 Portuguese Language and Culture I	5
MLL 154 Spanish Language and Culture I	5
MLL 184 Russian Language and Culture I	5
MLL 194 Korean Language and Culture I.....	5

Health and Well Being

6

# PSYCH 155 General Psychology.....	3
# FCS 203 Nutrition and Health <i>or</i>	3
# FCS 301 Nutrition 3	

Fine Arts and Aesthetic Studies (*Select one*)

2-3

ART 155 Printmaking.....	3
ART 178 Introduction to the Visual Arts.....	3
ART 188 The Designed World.....	3
ART 217 Crafts I.....	3
ART 222 Jewelry Design I.....	3
ART 233 Drawing I.....	3
ART 244 Ceramics I.....	3
ART 266 Sculpture I.....	3
ART 277 Painting I.....	3
ART 288 Western Art History I	3
ART 289 Western Art History II.....	3
ART 311 Art Education	3
COMM 105 Performance Appreciation	3
COMM 205 Performance Studies.....	3
COMM 295 Theatre History	3
ENGL 250 Introduction to Creative Writing.....	3
HHP 151 Dance Appreciation	3
MUSIC 120 Music Appreciation	3
(Classical, Jazz, or World Music)	
MUSIC 121 Introduction to Music Literature	2
MUSIC 321 History of Music	3

Human Heritage

6

(Select one from two of the following three categories)

History

HIST 101 World History to 1500	3
HIST 102 World History from 1500.....	3
HIST 201 American History to 1865.....	3
HIST 202 American History from 1865.....	3

Literature

ENGL 113 General Literature	3
ENGL 114 General Literature (Genre)	3
ENGL 116 General Literature (Theme)	3
ENGL 120 Literature and Film.....	3
ENGL 315 Mythology	3

Philosophy

PHIL 103 Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 105 Ethics	3
PHIL 111 Ethics (Applied Emphasis).....	3
PHIL 208 Logic and Critical Thinking	3
PHIL 231 World Religions.....	3

Total General Education Hours49-53

Additional Nursing Prerequisites

13

# BIOL 257/258 Anatomy & Physiology/Lab	5
# BIOL 371/372 General Microbiology/Lab	5
# PSYCH 263 Developmental Psychology <i>or</i>	
# FCS 285 Lifespan Human Development	3

Total Hours General Education & Nursing Prerequisites.....62-66

These courses are nursing pre-requisites and can be completed prior to enrollment in upper division nursing courses or concurrent with enrollment in first nursing courses.

RN to BSN/MSN Courses

The Department of Nursing offers Registered Nurses the opportunity to achieve the baccalaureate degree in an accelerated time frame. RN-BSN/MSN students who have completed **all** university general education and additional required nursing courses for the nursing major can complete the upper division nursing courses in one year of full-time study. Completion of the RN-BSN/MSN courses in one year is NOT recommended for the registered nurse who is working full-time. Part-time study is an option for nurses who desire to complete the nursing courses over several years.

The RN-BSN/MSN courses are designed for the RN student whose long term career goals may extend beyond the bachelor's degree. Upon completion of the courses, students will have completed 4-7 credit hours required in the Master of Science in Nursing Degree program at Pittsburg State University.

All RN-BSN/MSN courses are offered as hybrids (on-campus and online attendance required) or online. RN students do have the option of enrolling in on-campus only classes. N304 Transitions into Baccalaureate Nursing, a hybrid course, meets on-campus two times during the Fall Semester, as part of this course students orient to the PSU online ANGEL platform, the nursing department, and the university, obtain photo IDs, parking permits, and network with faculty and other students.

The N723/N724 Client/Family Theory and Practicum, hybrid courses, meet during the Fall Semester or Summer Semester one evening a week for the on-campus portion of the courses. This is the last course taken before graduation. It is required that students complete all RN to BSN courses before taking N723/N724 Client/Family Theory and Practicum. A nursing elective course is required for the BSN degree. Many RNs choose to take the N712 Issues and Roles in Advanced Nursing Practice course for their upper division nursing elective. This course meets in the Fall and meets a requirement for the MSN degree.

Clinical requirements for the RN-BSN/MSN student are met through validation of current nursing practice as a registered nurse and through completion of integrated assignments and activities which meet the clinical objectives for the BSN degree.

It is strongly recommended that students desiring to proceed into the MSN program enroll, audit or engage in an in-depth self study review of Pathophysiology and Pharmacology before enrolling in the Advanced Pathophysiology or the Applied Pharmacology courses in the MSN program.

Nursing Articulation in Kansas

The PSU Nursing Program participates in the Kansas Statewide Articulation Plan to promote educational mobility for nurses. As a participant of this program, Registered Nurses (RNs) must validate learning in order to receive credit for BSN Courses:

NURS 300-Foundations of Nursing Practice
NURS 302-Techniques for Nursing
NURS 390-Pathophysiologic Bases of Nursing
NURS 410-Nursing the Adult Medical Surgical Client
NURS 440-Pharmacology in Nursing
NURS 452-Nursing the Childbearing Family
NURS 462-Nursing the Child and Family
NURS 457-Nursing the Childbearing Family Practicum
NURS 470-Nursing the Psychiatric/Mental Health Client
NURS 599-Internship in Nursing Practice.

Validation (36 hours) is accomplished by:

1. Achieving a passing score on the National Council's Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), as evidenced by a current license to practice as a Registered Nurse
2. Validation letter of 3 months of current nursing practice
3. Successful completion of NURS 304-Transitions into Baccalaureate Nursing Practice with a "C" or above
4. Successful completion of NURS 723-Client/Family Health: Theory, Assessment, Promotion and NURS 724-Client/Family Health: Practicum with a "C" or above

In addition to 1-4, for nursing credits more than 10 years old, validation can occur by verifying 1,000 hours of nursing work experience in the last 3 years.

Upper Division Courses

RN to BSN/MSN courses are typically offered according to the following designated semesters.

Fall

N265 Health Promotion Disease Prevention	2 hrs
N304 Transitions into Baccalaureate Nursing	1 hr
N320 Health Assessment	3 hrs
N405 Health Alterations in Older Adults	3 hrs
N482 Research in Nursing	3 hrs

Spring

N502 Community Nursing	4 hrs
N521 Leadership Roles and Management Functions in Nursing	3 hrs
N525 Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing of the Adult Client	6 hrs

Fall and Summer

*N723 Client/Family Health Theory, Assessment, Promotion	2 hrs
*N724 Client/Family Health: Practicum	2 hrs
Upper Division Nursing Elective	2 hrs
Indicates MSN Course	

Nursing Credit Hours Taken at PSU 31-32 hours

Validated Nursing Credit Hours 36 hrs

**Total Credit Hours for Upper Division
Nursing Major** **67-68 hrs**

**Total Credit Hours General Education and
Nursing Prerequisites** **62-66 hrs**

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at PSU requires a minimum of **125** hours for graduation.

PSU Policy Pertaining to the Last Thirty Hours

A maximum of six semester hours of credit completed at another college or university may be applied on the last 30 hours prior to graduation.

Admission

Students seeking admission to the RN to BSN/MSN courses must make application for admission to the Department of Nursing (\$25) and make application for admission to the University (\$30). The application packet may be obtained from the Department of Nursing or you may print the forms from nursing's website. The application, with submitted fees, is applicable for only one academic year. If you are considered an International Student, please contact the Admissions Office for applications and fee amounts.

RN to BSN/MSN students considering admission to the nursing program should send all official transcripts to the PSU Registrar for evaluation of previously earned credit. Following completion of the transcript evaluation, RN to BSN/MSN students should make an appointment for advisement for determination of a program plan of study with a member of the nursing department faculty by calling 620-235-4431.

Application Deadlines

RN to BSN/MSN applications are accepted year round. For timely processing, applications are desired by the following dates:

- Fall Admission - July 15th
- Spring Admission - November 15th
- Summer Admission - April 15th

Completed applications must include the following:

1. Applicants are required to purchase a background check through CertifiedBackground.com. This is a National Background Check in your current state of residence. Also required is a signed consent for background check form for the nursing department, SRS Child Abuse check form, and if you are NOT a resident of Kansas you are required to complete a KBI background check form. The application packet specifies fee amounts to be remitted. **Applicants with a criminal history (includes misdemeanors and felonies) and/or arrests for which action is still pending will be evaluated on an individual basis, with no guarantee of admission. There are specific requirements for reporting criminal history on the application for admission.**
2. Three satisfactory professional references from academic advisors, employers or teachers (references from friends, relatives & ministers are not acceptable references)
3. Proof of current RN licensure
4. Documentation of current Immunization status
5. Current CPR certification

6. Documentation of a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. (all transcripts on file with the university)
7. Payment of all fees (application and fees are applicable for only one academic year).
8. A student whose native language is NOT English is required to submit proof that he or she has taken and passed (Score of 50) the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit and the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). A minimum TOEFL score of 55, or 213 on the computer based TOEFL, is required. Minimum scores for the TOEFL iBT are as follows: Writing-20; Speaking-20; Reading-19; Listening-20; for a total of 79. Each area must meet the minimum requirement.
9. All students will participate in the standardized testing program that includes a critical thinking pre test and post test. Testing costs are \$50.00, which should be paid at the time of admission.

PLEASE NOTE:

A grade of C or above is required in all of the following courses and their labs: Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, College Algebra, General Psychology, Developmental Psychology or Lifespan Human Development, Microbiology, Nutrition, and Introduction to Sociology. Any requests for exception must be accompanied by a written explanation to assist the admission committee in arriving at a fair decision.

Time Limit to Complete Degree

Nursing credits earned toward the upper division major in nursing **at PSU** which have been earned more than ten years prior to the time the candidate receives the degree cannot be counted to meet requirements for the degree unless validated by repeating coursework or by special examination.

Progression/Graduation Requirements

Students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree must meet the general education course and grade requirements for all baccalaureate degrees conferred by Pittsburg State University. In addition, the student must complete the specific requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree.

A grade below "C" represents work of insufficient quality, not adequate to pursue subsequent courses. For this reason, a student making a "D" or "F" grade in a required course will not be permitted to continue in the nursing major or to graduate.

Statements of the course requirements and grading policy are a part of the course syllabus which is given to each student at the beginning of the course.

Unprofessional and/or unethical behavior is considered grounds for immediate dismissal from the nursing program.

An incomplete course must be satisfactorily completed within one year from the date the "I" was given or the "I" grade will be changed to an F. **RN to BSN/MSN students may not progress in nursing courses until all previous nursing course incompletes have been removed.**

Repeat of Nursing Courses

Upper division nursing courses resulting in a "C" grade could be repeated contingent upon space available in the course; however, preference will be given to the students taking the course for the first time. Repeat of "C" policy for RN-BSN/MSN nursing students will be consistent with the university policy.

Transfer Policy

Applications from RNs wishing to **transfer** to Pittsburg State University **from another nationally accredited baccalaureate nursing program** will be accepted by the department if the courses are determined to be equivalent. The following criteria will be considered for each transfer applicant.

1. Transfer students must meet admission requirements as stated previously in the RN to BSN/MSN booklet and University catalog.
2. The existing progression policy of the Department of Nursing will be implemented with any unsatisfactory grades from the prior nursing program.
3. Each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine placement within the nursing program. Availability of space may also impact entry.
4. Unsatisfactory grades (D or F) from previous schools are transferred and counted as unsatisfactory grades at PSU.
5. A maximum of six semester hours of credit completed at another college or university may be applied on the last thirty hours prior to graduation.

Continuing Education for Nurses

The Department of Nursing is approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing as a long term provider of continuing education offerings. Programs are offered throughout the year that meet the mandatory continuing education requirements for relicensure of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

Elective Nursing Courses

Elective Nursing Courses are offered periodically and may include: Transcultural Nursing, School Nursing, Health Care Terminology and Drug Calculations, Human Structure and Function Review, Neonatal Resuscitation, Government and Health, and Issues and Roles. Offerings may be added.

Student Financial Assistance

Nursing students seeking financial aid should contact the Financial Assistance Office in Horace Mann. The Financial Assistance Office administers a range of scholarships, grants and loans.

After admission to the nursing major, each student may apply on-line for the scholarships administered by the Department. The recipients are selected by a committee according to established criteria.

Additional Information

To request additional information for the following areas please contact:

Registrar's Office (620) 235-4200

For Tuition and Fees

Financial Assistance (620) 235-4240

For Financial Aid Questions

<http://www.pittstate.edu/admit/transfer-equiv.html>

For Transfer Equivalency Questions

Pittsburg State University Nursing Website

<http://www.pittstate.edu/nurs>

**For further information regarding the nursing program or to make an appointment.
Please contact:**

Pittsburg State University

Department of Nursing

1701 S. Broadway

Pittsburg, KS 66762

Phone: (620) 235-4431/Fax: (620) 235-4449

E-mail: ptotman@pittstate.edu or rbwilson@pittstate.edu

Nursing Department Faculty

Chair

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The Department of Nursing reserves the right to make program changes and/or correct booklet errors if necessary.