BSN Student Handbook 2025-2026



BEAVER COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES Nursing

2025-2026

BSN STUDENT HANDBOOK

Physical Location

Department of Nursing, 5th Floor Leon Levine Hall of the Beaver College of Health Sciences 1179 State Farm Road Boone, NC 28607

Simulation Labs

Leon Levine Hall of the Beaver College of Health Sciences, 3rd Floor 1179 State Farm Road Boone, NC 28607

Mailing Address / Contact Information

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General Information and Policies

Our Vision

Appalachian State University's Department of Nursing will be regionally (nationally) recognized as a higher education organization that is innovative, inquiry-based and inclusive. Our focus is on the healthcare needs of society and of underserved populations.

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Nursing at Appalachian State University is to prepare nurse leaders and providers advancing the nursing profession through education, scholarship and practice in service to the community.

Our Values

- Leadership Inspire, influence, shape
- Integrity Authentic, trusted, credible
- Diversity Variability, inclusivity
- Excellence Distinctive, notable
- Innovation Creative, visionary, agile
- Caring presence, support, hopeful

Adopted April 4, 2007; Revised October 2008; Revised February 2009; Revised January 2013; Reviewed January 2014; Revised April 2016; Revised August 2018; Reviewed June 2020; Reviewed 8/2021; Reviewed 04/2022; Mission, Vision revised August 22: Values revised 01/23; 09/25.

The Philosophy That Grounds Us

- A strong educational foundation is the basis (grounding) for excellence in nursing scholarship, teaching practices, clinical work, and community engagement.
- Nursing education is a lifelong process that encompasses degree programs, professional development, and reflective practices toward continued growth and resilience.
- Excellence in nursing science and care advancing the health and well-being of all people, our communities, our state, the region, and beyond.
- Nursing practice is based in compassion, respect, and value for the dignity and unique attributes of all people.

Adopted April 25, 2007; Revised: October, 2008 Revised: February 2009 Revised January, 2013 Reviewed January, 2014, Revised April 2016, August 2018; Reviewed June 2020, Reviewed 8/2021; Reviewed 04/2022; Revised 01/2023

Goals: BSN Program

- Provide a quality program in nursing based on a liberal education and professional nursing values, competencies, and knowledge.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of professional nursing roles in caring for individuals, families, groups, and communities from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds through the application of knowledge, theory, and research from nursing as well as other related disciplines.
- Instill in students an appreciation for and commitment to lifelong learning, scholarship, and service in order to promote their personal growth, advance the profession of nursing, and meet the health needs of society.
- Prepare nurses who can practice as generalists in any health care setting.
- Provide a foundation for graduate nursing education.

Adopted April 4, 2007; Revised October 2008; Revised February 2009; Revised January 2013; Reviewed January 2014; Revised April 2016; Revised August 2018; Reviewed June 2020; Reviewed 8/2021

End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes: BSN Program

The following educational outcomes are based on the mission, goals, and philosophy of Appalachian State University's Department of Nursing.

The program graduate will:

- Utilize clinical judgment and foundational knowledge of the liberal arts, sciences, and evolving disciplinary knowledge to provide nursing care that is safe, holistic, equitable, and evidence-based to diverse individuals and populations across the lifespan within a variety of settings.
- 2. Exhibit person-centered nursing care that respects diversity, values, and beliefs and addresses needs, preferences, resources, and determinants of health unique to healthcare consumers and stakeholders.
- 3. Collaborate with care team members, patients, families, communities, and other stakeholders to provide a continuum of care that focuses on wellness and prevention, restorative care, chronic disease management, and palliative care.
- 4. Communicate through personal interaction and use of information technologies in a manner that demonstrates respect, authenticity, and confidentiality to provide safe, quality care, gather data, inform decision making, and support expansion of knowledge and wisdom for practice.
- 5. Cultivate a sustainable nursing identity through self-care, education, and civic engagement that fosters resilience, healthier lifestyles, and equitable care for nurses, consumers, caregivers, and stakeholders/communities.
- 6. Demonstrate leadership and accountability in accordance with ethical, legal, professional, and quality and safety standards in nursing practice.

Adopted April 4, 2007; Revised October 2008; Revised February 2009; Revised January 2013; Reviewed January 2014; Revised April 2016; Revised August 2018; Reviewed June 2020; Reviewed 8/2021; Reviewed 04/2022; Revised/Adopted 5/2022; 11/2024; Revised: 05/2025.

BSN Program Concepts, Subconcepts and Threads

CONCEPTS	SUBCONCEPTS AND THREADS
Person-centered Care	Theory-based Practice Teaching-learning based Practice Evidence-based Practice and Research Nursing/Problem-Solving Process Clinical Judgment Safety/Quality Competent Technical Skills Respect for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Cultural and Structural Competence Holistic Caring Behaviors Legal/ethical Considerations
Clinical Judgment	Knowledge Integration of Liberal Arts and Sciences Cue Recognition and Analysis Problem Prioritization Inquiry Goal Setting Implementation/Intervention Evaluation of Outcomes
Communication	Respect for Dignity, Privacy, and Individuality Therapeutic Communication (eye contact, active listening, touching, developing rapport and trust) Advocacy Education Empowerment Literacy Information Management (access to, evaluation and dissemination of healthcare information)
Collaboration	Inter-and Intra-professional Communication Report Giving/Validation of Projected Plan of Care Access and Integration of Community Resources Coordination of Care Confidentiality of health records, data and information Team Acknowledgement of Safety Protocols
Leadership	Coordination of Care Management of Individuals and Teams Role Analysis Delegation Conflict Management Health Policy Awareness Resource and Cost Management
Professionalism	Self-Care/Stress Management Practice Alignment with ANA Code of Ethics, Nurse Practice Act Self-Management and Evaluation/Accountability/Autonomy Global Perspective Life-long Learning

Academic Performance and Progression

The academic performance and progression of each student enrolled in the Department of Nursing (DON) pre-licensure BSN Program is monitored for timely progression to degree. At Appalachian State University, academic progression is monitored through a combination of GPA, credit hour completion, and adherence to time limits for degree completion. The goal of monitoring performance and progression is to determine whether each student is making satisfactory progress in their program of study based on criteria established by the DON and the University. This provides an opportunity to identify students with difficulties and assist them in obtaining the help and support they need.

Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, all students must earn a grade of 77 or above in all required nursing courses. An overall GPA of 2.50 is required in nursing courses at the end of fall semester, junior year and every semester thereafter.

Academic Integrity

Formal complaints related to academic dishonesty are addressed in the Appalachian State University: <u>Academic Integrity Code</u>. Violations of the Academic Integrity Code are addressed on a case by case basis by the Office of Student Conduct.

Academic Advising and Faculty Mentoring for Nursing Students

Academic advising is provided by the Beaver College of Health Sciences Office of Advising and Academic Support located on the first floor of the Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences 1179 State Farm Road, Boone NC. Ms. Jess Palmer is the current APP STATE Nursing Department Advisor, Room: 101C, Phone: 828-262-6901, email: palmerjm3@appstate.edu In addition to academic advising, faculty mentoring is the mechanism for post-graduate planning. The primary goal of faculty mentoring is to offer undergraduate students information and support regarding professional standards and pathways to employment or graduate school after earning a bachelor's degree. For any concern or issue, students are encouraged to contact the Undergraduate Program Director, Sarah Martin, Room 504 Leon Levine Hall, 828- 262-8074, martinsr4@appstate.edu.

App State Student Support Services

Library Services

Students are encouraged to use the APP STATE's library facilities. Find the Beaver College of Health Sciences Librarian by visiting libary.appstate.edu

Counseling Center

(828-262-3180), http://counseling.appstate.edu/

App State's Counseling Center is available to students at any time. For emergencies, on weekends and evenings, students may contact App State's Police at (828)262-2150 if a counseling staff member is needed. In addition, the counseling center may refer students to local mental health services.

Student Health Services

(828-262-3100), https://healthservices.appstate.edu

App State's pre-licensure BSN students have access to Student Health Services, however, online nursing students do not pay the student health services fee and are not eligible.

Tutoring

https://studentlearningcenter.appstate.edu/tutoring-services

On campus students should discuss tutoring with course faculty members and/or academic advisor(s). Online students in need of tutoring may contact faculty or the online education department. Additional resources for academic success can be received through the Academic Success Coach for Nursing.

Writing Center

https://writingcenter.appstate.edu/

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource available to all Appalachian State University students and faculty as well as members of the Boone community. The UWC is a collaborative, supportive, and non-evaluative environment intended to help you with your writing in a way that will foster confidence and competence. Consultants can provide assistance with writing at all stages and in any subject matter. Appointments can be made online.

Additional Resources

https://studentsuccess.appstate.edu/campus-resources provides additional resources. If you can't find what you're looking for or are not sure who to contact, email avp-student-success@appstate.edu or call 828-262-8547 for further assistance .

Admission, Progression, Graduation, Dismissal and Readmission

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

The purpose of this degree and accredited baccalaureate program is to prepare students who do not yet possess a registered nursing license to practice as a generalist in a variety of healthcare settings. In this pre-licensure program, students develop academic knowledge and skills for care of individuals, families, and communities while also building a foundation for graduate nursing education.

Admission Criteria

- Students must be admitted to the University and complete 44 semester hours of prerequisite (general education) coursework prior to applying for admission to the Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree program.
- Students must complete certification as a nursing assistant I (C.N.A.) through an approved and accredited North Carolina program or gain approval for CNA-I Reciprocity Application based on certification from an approved out of state program may be completed through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

- Division of Health Service Regulation Health Care Personnel Education and Credentialing Section. EMTs, Paramedics with unencumbered credentials and military personnel who received nursing/medical training may seek certification by completion of a Training Waiver.
- Students apply for admission between fall and spring semester of the sophomore year with the deadline for application submission by the first day of Spring Semester.
- Acceptance into the pre-licensure BSN program is competitive and based on the student's application, interview process, and science and overall GPA. Specific guidelines on admission requirements and application form are available on the Department of Nursing website. Not all applicants who meet the requirements can be accommodated; therefore, applicants whose credentials present the best qualifications for those meeting the requirements will be selected.

Transfer Credit

- All baccalaureate degrees granted by Appalachian require the completion of a minimum of 50 semester hours at a senior college or university. (Note that credit awarded for credit by exam, military service, or "Life Experience" does not count as part of the required 50 hours.)
- All nursing courses must be taken at Appalachian. The Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) with NC community colleges will be followed in evaluating non-nursing credits from NC community colleges.

Graduation Requirements

- The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pre-licensure program consists of 126 semester hours. Of these, 44 semester hours are general education requirements. Major courses that are foundational and satisfy the general education requirement include: CHE 1101, CHE 1110, CHE 1102, CHE 1120, NUT 2202, PHL 2000 or PHL 3015, PSY 1200 and SOC 1000.
- The remaining hours include the following courses: ES 2040, ES 2050, BIO 2200, PSY 2210, STT 1810 or higher, NUR 3121, NUR 3123, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3400, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 3050, NUR 3450, NUR 3452, NUR 4110, NUR 4112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, NUR 4128, NUR 4130, NUR 4145, NUR 4200, and NUR 4210.
- GPA Requirements: A grade of C or above is required for each course in the major.
 A grade of B- or higher is required in the Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology courses.
- An overall GPA of 2.50 is required in nursing courses at the end of fall semester, junior year and every semester thereafter.
- Coursework is defined as "in residence" when registration is through the University.
 To graduate from Appalachian, an undergraduate student must complete the following in residence:
 - a minimum of eighteen (18) semester hours in the major and (if applicable)
 nine (9) semester hours in the minor
 - o at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree

Just Culture Framework

In collaboration with the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON), the Department of Nursing uses a "Just Culture" framework. Just Culture promotes a learning culture that supports patient safety while promoting accountability for clinical behavior. The Department of Nursing uses "Just Culture" concepts when reviewing practice events or errors and when identifying appropriate resolutions that promote practice enhancement and patient safety. Just Culture concepts are outlined at the NCBON website.

Progression Requirements

Students must maintain:

- current BLS certification at the healthcare provider level, American Heart Assoc.
- yearly tuberculosis screening
- all immunization requirements as outlined in the compliance system
- negative Drug Screen
- approved Criminal Background Check(s)

To progress from one semester to the next, a student must:

- achieve a grade of 77% or higher in each nursing didactic course.
- maintain a cumulative GPA in nursing courses of 2.5 (Students who have a cumulative nursing GPA less than 2.5 at the end of fall semester, junior year, will be placed on probation and must increase nursing cumulative GPA to 2.5 at the end of the following semester and maintain thereafter.)
- achieve a grade of "satisfactory" in each nursing clinical course.

Revised: 05/2025

Learning Improvement Plan

A student who is not meeting program, course, and/or clinical objectives may be placed on a Learning Improvement Plan to help facilitate student success.

A Learning Improvement Plan is not punitive, but rather a communication tool established to allow students, in conjunction with faculty, to address areas in need of improvement. The plan will note the issue of concern and related program/course/clinical objective, provide examples of the problem, and establish concrete action plans and timelines for addressing areas of concern through clearly defined and measurable performance objectives.

Circumstances for a learning improvement plan include but are not limited to:

- A failing grade (<77%) in any nursing course.
- A mid-term evaluation with a grade of <77% in a didactic or clinical course.
- Any deficiency in the classroom, lab, or clinical setting as determined by faculty.
- A cumulative GPA less than 2.5 for nursing courses.

The Department of Nursing promotes the success of every student in the program. When students' work indicates potential academic or clinical failure (a grade < 77%), it is the responsibility of the student to set up a meeting with the faculty to complete a Learning Improvement Plan within 1-2 weeks of the occurrence. The plan will be signed by both the student and faculty. The student may also reach out to the Nursing Academic Coach for additional remediation. A copy of the written plan will be provided to the student

and maintained in the student file. As part of creating and maintaining a just culture, clinical remediation will incorporate the use of the North Carolina Board of Nursing, Student Practice Event Evaluation Tool (SPEET).

Revised: 09/12/24; 05/2025

Student Sanction and Dismissal

Students may be sanctioned or dismissed from the Department of Nursing for any of the following reasons:

- Non-compliance and/or violations of Appalachian State University or Department of Nursing policies and procedures.
- Non-compliance and/or violations of clinical agency policies and procedures.
- Non-compliance and/or violations of the North Carolina Nurse Practice Act and ANA's Code of Ethics.
- Failure to achieve a grade of at least "C" (77% or >) in a nursing (NUR) course and/or achieving a summative grade of "Unsatisfactory" in a clinical course.
- Failure to maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA in nursing courses as outlined.
- Failure to pass a medication calculation test on the third attempt (BSN pre licensure program).
- Repeated or severe inappropriate behavior that interferes with the ability of the student to safely practice nursing.
- Use of illegal substances or misuse of substances that interfere with the ability to practice safe nursing.
- Denial by any clinical agency for access due to criminal background results, positive drug screen or other outcomes that impact safe nursing practice.
- Clinical behavior that is unsafe, unprofessional, unethical and/or beyond student's scope of practice (actions for which student has not been educated or authorized to perform (Refer to the <u>Just Culture SPEET</u> form for more details) (NCBON, 2020).
- Uncivil behavior in classroom, lab, clinical or online settings directed toward patients, family members, significant others, visitors, students, faculty or other healthcare providers.
- Behavior that threatens the physical, emotional, mental or environmental safety of patients, family members or significant others, visitors, students, faculty or other healthcare providers.
- Excessive absences, tardiness, and/or incomplete assignments.

For additional detail related to incomplete courses, withdrawal, grade appeals and readmission, please see the App State Nursing General Student Handbook.

Revised: 05/2025

Curriculum Overview BSN Program

Semester	Course	Hours/Week*	Clinical Hours	Credit hours
Summer	NUR 3121 - Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	3	0	3
	NUR 3123 - Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Clinical	4	45	1
Fall	NUR 3300 - Fundamentals of Nursing Practice	3	0	3
	NUR 3302 - Fundamentals of Nursing Practice Clinical	9 (14 weeks)	126	3
	NUR 3040 - Pharmacology I	2	0	2
	NUR 3115 - Pathophysiology	3	0	3
	NUR 3400 - Socialization to Professional Nursing	2	0	2
Spring	NUR 3050 - Pharmacology II	2	0	2
	NUR 3100 - Adult Health I	3	0	3
	NUR 3110 - Adult Health I Clinical	9 (14 weeks)	126	3
	NUR 3450 - Mental Health & Nursing Care of Communities	5	0	5
	NUR 3452 - MH & Nursing Care of Communities Clinical	9 (14 weeks)	126	3
Fall	NUR 3102 - Adult Health II	3	0	3
	NUR 3112 - Adult Health II Clinical	9 (14 weeks)	126	3
	NUR 4200 - Introduction to Nursing Research	2	0	2
	NUR 4124 - Care of Women, Children & Families	5	0	5
	NUR 4127 - Care of Women, Children & Families Clinical	9 (14 weeks)	126	3
Spring	NUR 4110 - Adult Health III	3	0	3
	NUR 4112 - Adult Health III Clinical	24 (5.5 weeks)	126	3
	NUR 4128 - Leadership & Management in Nursing	3	0	3
	NUR 4210 - Nursing Research Application	1	0	1
	NUR 4130 - Professional Nursing Capstone Clinical	18 (7 weeks)	126	3
	NUR 4145 - Professional Nursing Synthesis	1	0	1
Total			927	63

¹ credit hour of lecture time= 50 minutes of class time per week unless otherwise specified

Simulation hours are included in clinical hours and calculated at 2:1.

Revised: 05/2025

¹ credit hour of lab or clinical time= 42 hours (3 hours per week) of lab/clinical time per term unless otherwise specified. Estimates are based on a 15-week semester with week 15 being the final exam week.

^{*}Clinical hours per week and number of weeks may be adjusted at the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator based on clinical site options and with approval of the Program Director as long as the required clinical hours are obtained.

Curriculum Levels

The BSN (pre-licensure) program is divided into three levels.

Level 1 students build on general education coursework and acquire beginning knowledge and skills for nursing practice. Students begin the nursing curriculum in the summer by studying Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (NUR 3121: Didactic and NUR 3123: Lab/Clinical). In the first fall semester, they take Fundamentals of Nursing Practice (NUR 3300: Didactic and NUR 3302: Clinical). These courses emphasize assessment, development of basic nursing skills, and care of clients with common health problems. Students also take Pathophysiology in Nursing (NUR 3115), Pharmacology I (NUR 3040) and Socialization to Professional Nursing (NUR 3400) which respectively introduce disease states and disorders, principles related to the nurse's role in medication administration, and the role of the professional nurse.

Level 2 students progress in third and fourth semesters, building on knowledge gained in Level 1 coursework. In Level 2, students study Adult Health I (NUR 3100: Didactic and NUR 3110: Clinical) followed by Adult Health II (NUR 3102: Didactic and NUR 3112: Clinical). These courses address concepts and competencies related to care of adults with chronic health problems. In Nursing Care of Women, Children and Childbearing families (NUR 4124: Didactic and NUR 4127 Clinical), students develop an understanding of care for women during pregnancy and delivery, newborns, and children across the wellness/illness spectrum. In Mental Health and Nursing Care of Communities(NUR 4124: Didactic and NUR 4127: Clinical) students participate in group processes, address care for individuals experiencing emotional and behavioral alterations, and participate in primary, secondary, tertiary levels of health intervention. Level 2 coursework also includes an Introduction to Nursing Research (NUR 4200) and continued study of medication administration and patient teaching through Pharmacology II (NUR 3050).

Level 3 coursework occurs in the final semester and allows students to strengthen knowledge and skills with an emphasis on advanced nursing care. In Adult Health III (NUR 4110: Didactic and NUR 4112: Clinical), students hone skills of clinical judgment, priority setting, and problem-solving as they care for individuals with multi-system alterations in acute care settings. During the Professional Nursing Capstone (NUR 4130: Clinical), students prepare for transition to graduate nurses as they engage in teamwork, interprofessional collaboration, and healthcare delivery for groups of patients. In Leadership and Management in Nursing (NUR 4128), they study group dynamics, conflict, leadership styles, and management of costs/resources. Through participation in Nursing Research Application (NUR 4210), students practice analysis and critique of studies and conduct a literature review reflecting evidence based practice for an assigned nursing issue or problem. Their Professional Nursing Synthesis course (NUR 4145) allows time for review, test taking strategies, case study analysis, and study of modules that offer further preparation for the NCLEX.

Course Descriptions: BSN Prelicensure Program

NUR 3121 - Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (3) Summer Session

This course provides the knowledge and concepts necessary to obtain a client history, perform a focused and comprehensive physical exam, document findings and initiate the nursing process. Emphasis is on the identification of patient problems using a focused history and exam. Content includes identification of normal and abnormal physical and psychosocial findings, health promotion across the lifespan, evidence-based assessment instruments, and cultural factors that influence health.Prerequisite: admission to the BSN degree program.Corequisite: NUR 3123.

NUR 3123 - Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab/Clinical (1)Summer SessionThis course allows the student to perform comprehensive health assessment including history taking and physical examination while integrating health promotion and the nursing process. In the lab and clinical setting students practice identification and accurate documentation of normal and abnormal physical and psychosocial findings in individuals. Includes 45 laboratory/clinical hours.Graded on an S/U basis.Prerequisite: admission to the BSN degree program.Corequisite: NUR 3121.

NUR 3115 - Pathophysiology in Nursing (3) Fall

This course focuses on pathophysiology resulting in acute and chronic alterations in health across the lifespan. Environmental, lifestyle and human factors contributing to altered health states and pathophysiological principles underlying therapeutic interventions are examined. Prerequisite: NUR 3121 and NUR 3123.

NUR 3300 - Fundamentals of Nursing Practice (3) Fall

This course introduces essential functions of the nurse across healthcare settings, integrating strategic components of theory, critical thinking and problem-solving processes, application and caring. Coursework emphasizes basic principles and critical therapeutic interventions necessary in the care of individuals with common health problems.Prerequisites: NUR 3121 and NUR 3123.Corequisite: NUR 3302.

NUR 3302 - Fundamentals of Nursing Practice Lab/Clinical (3) Fall

This course focuses on the practice of essential skills and critical therapeutic interventions for basic nursing care of individuals with common health problems across a variety of healthcare settings. Specific client situations and scenarios during simulation, lab and clinical experiences are used to emphasize strategic components of theory, critical thinking and problem-solving processes. Throughout the course critical therapeutic interventions necessary in the care of individuals with common health problems are addressed. Includes 126 clinical hours. Graded on an S/U basis. Prerequisites: NUR 3121 and NUR 3123. Corequisite: NUR 3300.

NUR 3400 - Socialization to Professional Nursing (2) [WID] Fall

GEN ED: Junior Writing in the Discipline (WID)

This course explores the roles of professional nurses and the profession of nursing. Nursing history, theory, practice, and research concepts are explored. Evidence-based practice, research, critical thinking, and ethical/ legal principles are introduced. Prerequisites: NUR 3121, NUR 3123, and R_C 2001 or its equivalent.

NUR 3040 - Pharmacology I (2) Fall

This course introduces principles of basic pharmacology for nursing care. Emphasis is placed on drug action and therapeutic application on major pharmacological classifications of drugs including: drugs used to treat infection, cardiovascular drugs, drugs affecting the blood, respiratory drugs, drugs used to manage pain, and drugs used to treat mental health disorders. For each of these, nursing implications and drug therapy are examined. Prerequisites: NUR 3121 and NUR 3123.

NUR 3100 - Adult Health Nursing I (3) Spring

This course explores the nursing problems clients encounter with alterations in oxygenation, perfusion, hematological function, cellular growth and proliferation, and structural integrity. The nursing process related to these alterations is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Prerequisites: NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, and NUR 3400. Corequisite: NUR 3110.

NUR 3110 - Adult Health Nursing I Clinical (3)Spring

This course focuses on clinical practice, assimilation and application of knowledge to the nursing care of clients experiencing alterations in oxygenation, perfusion, hematological function, cellular growth and proliferation, and structural integrity. The nursing process related to these alterations is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Includes 126 clinical hours. Graded on an S/U basis.Prerequisites: NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, and NUR 3400. Corequisite: NUR 3100.

NUR 3050 - Pharmacology II (2) Spring

This course addresses principles of basic pharmacology for nursing care. Emphasis is placed on drug action and therapeutic application on major pharmacological classifications of drugs including: drugs affecting the autonomic nervous system, drugs used to treat neurological disorders, drugs used to treat anxiety and insomnia, drugs used treat metabolic/endocrine disorders, and drugs used to treat gastrointestinal disorders. For each of these, nursing implications and drug therapy are examined. Prerequisites: NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, and NUR 3400

NUR 3450 - Mental Health and Nursing Care of Communities (5) Spring

This course provides the theoretical base for identification and provision of mental health care for individuals and community health care for families and small groups. Communication skills with individuals, families, and communities as well as the therapeutic nurse-client relationship are emphasized. This course examines the interrelationship among health promotion, health maintenance and health restoration across the lifespan and explores the impacts of socioeconomic, structural, and environmental systems and conditions on health and well-being.Prerequisites: NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, and NUR 3400.Corequisite: NUR 3452.

NUR 3452 - Mental Health and Nursing Care of Communities Clinical (3) SpringThis course offers opportunities to identify and provide mental health care for individuals and community health care for families and small groups. Communication skills with individuals, families and communities as well as therapeutic nurse-client encounters are practiced. Students will participate in health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration activities across the lifespan. Includes 126 clinical hours. Graded on an S/U

basis.Prerequisites: NUR 3040, NUR 3115, NUR 3300, NUR 3302, and NUR 3400. Corequisite: NUR 3450.

NUR 4124 - Nursing Care of Childbearing Families, Women, and Children (5) Fall This course focuses on the role of the professional nurse in caring for diverse families, women during childbearing years, and children through adolescence. Students learn to provide nursing care that is patient centered, holistic, evidence based, and culturally competent. Nursing and family theory as well as communication theory is examined in the context of caring for childbearing families, women, and children.Prerequisites: NUR 3050, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3450, and NUR 3452.Corequisite: NUR 4127.

NUR 4127 - Nursing Care of Childbearing Families, Women, & Children Clinical (3) This course focuses on the role of the professional nurse in planning and providing direct patient care. Students provide patient-centered, holistic, culturally competent and evidence-based care to childbearing families and children. Culturally and developmentally appropriate therapeutic communication techniques are emphasized. Graded on an S/U basis. Prerequisites: NUR 3050, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3450, and NUR 3452. Corequisite: NUR 4124.

NUR 3102 - Adult Health Nursing II (3) Fall

This course explores the nursing problems clients encounter with alterations in neuro-sensorial and immunological function, metabolism, alimentation and elimination. The nursing process related to these alterations is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Prerequisites: NUR 3050, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3450, and NUR 3452. Corequisite: NUR 3112.

NUR 3112 - Adult Health Nursing II Clinical (3) Fall

This course focuses on clinical practice, assimilation, and application of knowledge to the nursing care of clients experiencing alterations in neuro-sensorial and immunological function, metabolism, alimentation and elimination. The nursing process related to these alterations is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Includes 126 clinical hours. Graded on an S/U basis. Prerequisites: NUR 3050, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3450, and NUR 3452. Corequisite: NUR 3102.

NUR 4200 - Introduction to Nursing Research (2) Fall

This course examines the role of research and theory in nursing practice and health care. In addition, it provides an overview and an analysis of research methodologies and the theoretical approaches with a continued look at evidence-based nursing practice. Prerequisites: NUR 3050, NUR 3100, NUR 3110, NUR 3450, and NUR 3452.

NUR 4110 - Adult Health Nursing III (3): Spring

This course explores nursing problems in clients experiencing complex health alterations related to acute disorders of cardiovascular dysfunction and collapse, impaired oxygenation and ventilation, trauma, sepsis, and multisystem failure. The nursing process related to care of these clients with their multiple physiological and psychosocial needs is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200. Corequisite: NUR 4112.

NUR 4112 - Adult Health Nursing III Clinical (3) Spring

This course focuses on clinical practice, assimilation, and application of knowledge to the nursing care of clients experiencing complex health alterations related to acute disorders of cardiovascular dysfunction and collapse, impaired oxygenation and ventilation, trauma, sepsis, and multisystem failure. The nursing process related to care of these clients with their multiple physiological and psychosocial needs is emphasized along with principles of health promotion, maintenance, illness care and rehabilitation. Graded on an S/U basis. NOTE: Includes 126 clinical hours.Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200.Corequisite: NUR 4110.

NUR 4210 - Nursing Research Application (1) Spring

This course applies research and theory in nursing practice and health care. Students will apply and disseminate research and evidence-based nursing practice into a healthcare project. Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200.

NUR 4128 - Leadership and Management in Nursing (3) Spring

This course emphasizes professional practice in the leadership and management of nursing care, and as a member of the nursing profession. The focus includes theories, research, and issues related to leadership, change, and management of nursing practice in the context of healthcare delivery. Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200.

NUR 4130 - Professional Nursing Capstone (3) [CAP] Spring

GEN ED: Capstone Experience

This clinical course is designed to prepare students for professional nursing practice through refinement of clinical and leadership nursing skills within the clinical setting. Students will integrate knowledge and skills from previous coursework and experiences in order to demonstrate achievement of course and program student learning outcomes. Students will complete precepted hours with a Registered Nurse in the clinical setting to gain experience and apply knowledge in the role of a professional nurse. Graded on S/U basis.Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200.

NUR 4145 - Nursing Synthesis (1) Spring

This course is designed to prepare students for professional nursing practice through synthesis of didactic content from previous coursework. Students integrate knowledge, skills and experiences to demonstrate achievement of course and program outcomes. This course provides drill and practice to prepare participants for success on the RN licensing examination (RN-NCLEX). Students review selected content from the nursing curriculum. Prerequisites: NUR 3102, NUR 3112, NUR 4124, NUR 4127, and NUR 4200.

Classroom Policies

Classroom Attendance Policy

In person class attendance is expected and necessary for success in the nursing program. All nursing courses are designated as face —to — face unless designated as hybrid in the course registration. Absences of 10% or greater of any didactic nursing course may result

in a failing grade for the course. Faculty may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student's final grade for the course.

- For anticipated absences, students must notify course faculty prior to class.
- For unexpected absences, students must notify faculty as soon as possible within 24 hours.
- Students are accountable for all missed classwork and assignments, and may receive additional make up assignments for missed classes. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the conversation with the faculty member to determine how to make up for missed work.
- The faculty member reserves a right to assign a zero for assignments or exams missed related to absences (without timely notification), and there may be an automatic five percent per day deduction on any exam or assignment missed because of absence.
- The faculty member has the right and may request that the student provide documentation validating the absence, such as a healthcare provider note relevant to the condition.
- Instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays, up to two absences per semester
- A student who expects to miss one or more class(es) due to participation in University- sponsored activities must:
 - seek prior approval from the Chair of the Department of Nursing
 - o notify the course instructor in advance of absence.
 - o complete work missed in advance or as directed by course instructor.
 - o maintain satisfactory progress in the course
- For hospitalization, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances, the student should contact the Chair of the Department of Nursing (haleytm@appstate.edu, 828- 262-7460) and the Office of Student Affairs (studentaffairs@appstate.edu, 828-262-2060). This notification is conveyed to the appropriate departmental office as a matter of information only. Individual faculty members and/or the clinical coordinator will determine makeup requirements.

Revised: 09/12/24; 05/2025

Classroom Testing Policy

- Didactic (classroom) nursing courses require that at least 80% of the course grade be generated by electronic, proctored examinations. The exams are composed of at least 80% NCLEX style questions (predominantly application and analysis). Exceptions include: Socialization to Nursing Practice (NUR 3400), Introduction to Nursing Research (4200), Leadership and Management in Nursing (4128), and Nursing Research Application (4210).
- The testing schedule and this policy will be included in the course syllabus.
- Students must be seated and prepared to start an exam at the appointed time. Students who are late may be denied the privilege of testing and receive a "0" for the test.
- Students must provide their own testing supplies as indicated by type of exam or syllabus instructions. Students may bring tissues, beverages, and/or a non-distracting food item.

- Non-programmable calculators will be provided and students may not use personal calculators.
- During testing, students' cell phones and all smart devices must be turned off at all times and not accessible.
- To maintain the integrity and security of exams, students are encouraged to use the restroom prior to the start of the test.
- During the test, students may not approach the instructor or proctor with questions about test content.
- The APP STATE Academic Integrity Code prohibits any form of cheating. Students must not engage in any behavior that could be perceived as cheating (looking in the direction of other students, holding test answer sheet or moving computer screen towards another student, taking screenshots of exam questions, discussing tests with other students during or afterwards, etc.) Students may not wear hooded jackets or caps with a bill during testing. Instructors will actively monitor students during testing.
- Students perceived to be cheating, will be dismissed from the room. The student must make an appointment with the instructor within 24 hours to discuss this occurrence. The APP STATE Academic Integrity Code and Guidelines will be followed.
- Students unable to test on the scheduled day must notify the instructor prior to testing. If extenuating circumstances prohibit this, then instructor notification must occur within 24 hours. The instructor has the right to request official and signed documentation of reason for absence (signed note from the healthcare provider)
- A make-up test is given at the discretion of the instructor. Students must make up a
 missed test within 1 week except in extenuating circumstances (i.e. hospitalization).
 It is the responsibility of the student to arrange the make-up test with the instructor.
 Failure to meet with the instructor regarding a missed test may result in an assigned
 score of "0" per the discretion of the instructor. In addition, a five percent deduction in
 score per day may be applied to any late exam or assignment.
- Students may review all graded tests except final exams. Per instructor discretion, tests may be reviewed corporately in the classroom or privately by appointment with faculty. Test reviews must occur within two weeks after the test is administered. To ensure test security, group reviews of all course tests prior to final examination are not permitted.

Revised: 09/12/24: 05/2025

ATI Testing Policy: Integration Across the Curriculum

Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) resources help students throughout the undergraduate nursing curriculum to promote and assess content mastery as well as methods to remediate identified knowledge gaps in order to prepare for success on the NCLEX – RN. The ATI Content Mastery Series component is available throughout the program and includes online text and media resources, review books, non- proctored and proctored assessments. The NCLEX Prep resources component in ATI will become active 3 months before graduation and remain active 6 months after graduation as students prepare to take the NCLEX-RN Examination.

Guidelines for use of Non-Proctored and Proctored Assessments:

- Students must successfully complete non-proctored (practice) assessments with a score of at least 90% prior to taking the proctored version of the assessments.
- Students have unlimited attempts to take non-proctored assessments.
- Proctored assessments will be administered by the ATI Champion, outside of class time, according to the outlined schedule. Proctored assessments are given toward the end of courses when the majority of the content has been covered.
- Upon completion of the proctored assessments, students must complete a focused review. This involves reviewing every learning gap identified by using either the Active Learning Templates or the Three Critical Points handout available in ATI.
- Students who score Level 1 or below on a proctored assessment are required to meet with the ATI champion at the beginning of the next semester in order to discuss the content from the completed focused review and identify methods of improvement for future ATI assessments.

For <u>each course</u> with proctored ATI(s), students who achieve a:

- Level 3 will receive three (3) percentage points added to the final exam grade.
- Level 2 will receive two (2) percentage points added to the final exam grade.
- Level 1 or Below Level 1 will receive zero (0) points.

Revised: 05/05/2025

Proctored Assessment	Summer Juniors	Fall Juniors	Spring Juniors	Fall Seniors	Spring Seniors
Critical Thinking Assessment (no focused review)	May (Entrance)			August (Exit)	
Fundamentals		November NUR 3300			
Pharmacology			April NUR 3050		
Adult Medical Surgical				November NUR 3102	
Mental Health			April NUR 3450		
Community Health			April NUR 3450		
Maternal Newborn				November NUR 4124	
Pediatric Nursing				November NUR 4124	
Leadership					April/May NUR 4128, no focused review
Comprehensive Predictor					April/May NUR 4145, no focused review

Grading Policies

Students are required to pass didactic classwork with a grade of C (77%) and clinical coursework with a "Satisfactory" in order to progress in the nursing program. Grades are not rounded in the nursing department. Requirements for evaluating performance and generation of course grades are determined by the course instructor. Per faculty discretion, a 5% deduction in score per day may be applied to any late exam or assignment.

Nursing Program Grading Scale

Α	95-100
A-	92-94.99
B+	89-91.99
В	86-88.99
B-	83-85.99
C+	80-82.99
С	77-79.99
C-	74-76.99
D+	71-73.99
D	65-70.99
F	64.99 and lower

Grading Disputes/Resolutions

- Students who believe that the course grade is unfair or inaccurate, must first discuss concerns with course faculty.
- If unable to resolve, the student may then discuss concerns with the Chair of the Nursing Department. At this point if there is a lack of resolution, the University's Grade Appeal Procedure should be followed.

Final Grade Appeal

The App State Nursing Department follows the App State policy for final grade appeals. Please refer to the Appalachian State University Academic Affairs website. The information from their main link will always be the most current.

Clinical Policies and Requirements

Professional Behavior:

Students are responsible for adhering to all Department of Nursing policies and procedures related to clinical, practicum/ capstone, simulation laboratory learning experiences while enrolled in the nursing program. When in clinical settings, students are accountable for knowing and abiding by clinical agency guidelines, regulations, and policies related to professional dress; professional behavior that includes communication patterns, safety practices, and other parameters that support delivery of safe, effective, and quality professional nursing care. It is the student's responsibility to clarify with nursing faculty any area of professional conduct outlined in Department and/or agency policy that is unclear.

Attendance:

Clinical, Practicum/Capstone, Simulation and Laboratory attendance is expected and necessary for success in the nursing program. Students must arrive on time and stay for the duration of all learning experiences.

- For absences due to illness (fever greater than 100° F and/or symptoms of contagious illness) students must contact clinical or lab instructor, clinical coordinator, and the clinical agency prior to the start of the learning experience. For missed hours, the student will be assigned a clinical/lab makeup day.
- Tardiness that exceeds 15 minutes beyond the start of the scheduled learning experience, must be reported to the clinical coordinator within 24 hours. A full makeup clinical/lab day will be assigned. Failure to make-up learning experience jeopardizes program progression.
- Any absences or tardiness that require a makeup day are subject to clinical faculty and site availability. Inability to complete the required clinical hours of the course, may result in failure in the clinical course.
- For anticipated absences due to other extenuating circumstances, students must receive prior approval from the Chair of the Department of Nursing.
- Transportation to and from clinical sites is the responsibility of the individual student.
- Students must plan to arrive at the clinical site 30 minutes prior to the start of the clinical/lab day unless otherwise instructed.

Medication Calculation Test

- Students must successfully pass a medication calculation test with a score of 85% or above, prior to beginning clinical experiences each semester.
- The test includes equivalency conversions, calculation of oral and parenteral dosages, drip rates for IV solutions, and dosages by body weight and mass.
- Students who fail on the first attempt must remediate (according to remediation policy) and repeat the test within two weeks. Students have three attempts to pass the test. Failure on the third attempt results in student withdrawal from the course.

Verification of BLS, OSHA, and HIPAA Training

All students must comply with state, Nursing Department and clinical agency mandated regulations. Prior to beginning clinical experiences at any agency, students must provide proof of:

- current American Heart Association BLS certification
- current OSHA and HIPAA training
- current health information and immunizations status requirements for clinical practice mandated by the clinical agency

Telephones and Electronic Devices:

- All phones and other devices (smart watches, tablets, etc.) must be turned off and secured in designated areas before entering the clinical site. Said devices may only be checked during breaks.
- Mental health agencies often require that all phones and other devices be left in the students' car. Said devices found inside the facility will result in denial of clinical access and ultimately, dismissal from the program.

Hospitals, clinical facilities, and health networks have specific policies regarding dress code, including, but not limited to tattoos, piercings, facial hair, hair color, hair length and/or style, nail length, type of nails (natural vs artificial, wraps, etc.), use and type nail polish/coverings, and footwear. Many of the agency policies are written to ensure patient safety and align with standards of the CDC, OSHA, and TJC. In order to meet clinical course objectives, students may be assigned to a variety of clinical settings. Participation in these settings requires that students adhere to specific dress code policies as outlined by the healthcare facility or agency. Based on regional requirements, the DON has identified the following Professional Dress Code and Nursing Student Uniform requirements:

Professional Dress Code:

- In all clinical agencies, lab and simulation experiences and other functions sanctioned by the Department of Nursing (unless otherwise instructed), students must wear App State professional uniform, in its entirety. Attire worn must support and not disrupt the learning environment, nor create a threat to health or safety.
- The uniform must be clean and neatly pressed.
- Students must wear their uniform facility appropriate or App State photo identification (ID) badges as part of the uniform. The Photo ID is worn on the left side above the App State logo and must be visible at all times.

Nursing Student Uniform:

- Information pertaining to ordering uniforms is provided when the student receives notice of admission to the program or during summer orientation.
- The nursing student uniform includes:
 - Scrub Top: black and monogramed with App State Nursing logo
 - o Scrub Pants: Black, cargo style; length must touch the top of shoe at instep
 - Scrub Jacket: White or Black or and monogrammed with App State Nursing logo
 - Skirt: A black uniform skirt may be worn instead of pants. Skirt length must cover the kneecap.
 - White or black colored closed toe shoes with a heel height that does not exceed one inch. Shoes must be neat and clean. Leather, or puncture and fluid resistant athletic shoes are acceptable if they are white or black and have no additional color i.e., labels, stamps, etc. The heel of the foot must be covered by the shoe, no clogs may be worn.
 - Socks and hosiery must be unadorned, cover the ankle, and match the shoe color; white socks and hosiery for white shoes, black socks and hosiery for black shoes.
 - Required accessories include:
 - Bandage scissors
 - Black writing pen and scratch paper or small notepad
 - Water resistant wristwatch with sweep second hand (not smart watch)
 - Stethoscope (with bell and diaphragm)
 - Additional accessories may be required for specific clinical/lab experiences.

- Optional Additions include:
 - T Shirt: crew-necked, short-or long sleeved. (to be worn under scrub: white or black color only. Sleeves of a short-sleeved t-shirt must not extend below the scrub top sleeve and long-sleeved shirt sleeve must not extend beyond the top of the wrist bone.
- Students who require maternity uniforms must wear the black top and black drawstring scrub pants. White maternity uniforms are not permitted.
- Significant weight gain or loss during enrollment may necessitate the purchase of a new uniform from the approved Department of Nursing vendor. Any significant stains on the uniform not removed during laundering may necessitate replacing that particular part of the nursing student uniform.

Hair Style:

- Hair must be neatly styled, natural color, clean, worn off the collar, and away from the face. Hair should be neatly restrained and be maintained off the collar.
- Minimal head coverings worn for religious beliefs are acceptable, but must allow students to use a stethoscope, other medical instruments, and cannot interfere with client examinations, or violate principles of infection control.
- Men must either be clean-shaven or ensure that their beards and mustaches must be neat and trimmed. The "scruffy" look is not allowed.

Tattoos:

All tattoos must be covered and not visible.

Jewelry:

- Only wrist watches with second hand and plain wedding bands are allowed in clinical and lab. In some clinical areas, no jewelry may be worn.
- One pair of small-stud earrings worn in the lower ear lobes are allowed per faculty discretion and according to clinical setting.
- No other body piercing studs or jewelry are allowed.

Cosmetics:

 Cosmetics must be minimal and subtly applied. No fragrances of any type are allowed.

Fingernails:

 No artificial nails, extensions, or nail polish are permitted. Nails must be short (to fingertip), clean, filed, with cuticles pushed back.

Chewing Gum:

• No Gum chewing is not allowed in any clinical setting. Breath mints are permitted and encouraged.

Tobacco Use:

• Use of any type of tobacco product is not allowed at any clinical or lab setting. Uniform or person must not smell of smoke.

Revised: 05/2025

Ceremonies and Celebrations

Lamp of Learning

The Lamp of Learning Ceremony symbolizes not only the pursuit of knowledge but also the deep compassion, commitment, and courage that define the nursing profession. As nursing students begin their clinical practice, they participate in the Lamp of Learning Ceremony and take an oath as an Appalachian State University student nurse to provide the highest quality care and services to the public, patients, and families.

- All junior nursing students are expected to participate in the Lamp of Learning Ceremony and may invite family, significant others, and friends to attend.
- Students will wear their App State clinical nursing scrubs.
- Students must arrive and be in line 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

Revised: 05/2025

Pinning and Graduation

At the end of the nursing program, senior students participate in both a pinning ceremony and graduation. During the pinning ceremony, students are recognized for their accomplishments in the baccalaureate (BSN) program and receive a nursing pin. At graduation, students are recognized again and receive their diplomas.

- All senior nursing students are expected to participate in the Pinning Ceremony and may invite family, significant others, and friends.
- Students are to wear cap and gown during the Pinning Ceremony.
- Professional dress is required:
 - For women, dark dress slacks, skirts or dresses with dark dress shoes are recommended. For men, a dress shirt with tie, dark dress slacks and dress shoes are recommended.
 - Dresses or skirts must not hang below graduation gown
 - No spiked high heels, platforms, flip-flops, or athletic shoes are permitted
 - Hair should be clean and up off the shoulders. Facial hair (mustache and beard) well groomed.
- Students must arrive and be in line (alphabetically) 1 hour prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

Revised: 05/2025

Forms

- Accident or Injury Event Form
- Annual Influenza Vaccination Form
- Clinical Event Form
- Clinical Progression Tool
- Compliance Checklist
- Consent and Release Authorization Form
- Drug Screen and Background Check Acknowledgment Form
- Hep B Vaccine Declination Form
- Learning Improvement Plan
- Photo Release Form
- Physical Exam Form
- Safety and Technical Standards Form (All Programs)
- TB Testing Initial (Two Step) Form
- TB Testing Record Annual
- Tuberculosis Risk Assessment
- Universal Confidentiality Form
- Yearly Student Information Form
- Yearly Handbook Signature Agreement Form