NURSING

Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN)

Dalton State College offers a nursing program leading to the Associate of Science in Nursing Degree (RN). This program provides persons with the knowledge and clinical expertise necessary to give direct nursing care to patients in a variety of settings. Some clinical experiences involve out-of-town travel and may include evening hours. Prospective students should be aware that all clinical sites are tobacco free areas and smoking is prohibited. The program of study includes general education and nursing theory, and provides opportunities to care for patients of all ages. This program has conditional approval by the Georgia Board of Nursing and fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, Phone: 404-975-5000; Fax: 404-975-5020. www.acenursing.org). Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure.

There are specific practices and/or acts delineated in the Nurse Practice Act which might prevent a candidate from being granted a license to practice as a Registered Nurse. Clinical facilities used by the program require students to submit to background checks and drug screenings before they are allowed in the facility. Based on the information obtained, these facilities can refuse student access. Failure to be accepted into clinical facilities may jeopardize a student’s ability to complete the program. For more information, contact the Department of Associate Degree Nursing.

Pre-Nursing Requirements

1. Admission to Dalton State College and exit (or exempt) all areas of Learning Support.
2. High School graduate or G.E.D. equivalent.
3. SAT or ACT scores by December 31 annually.

Students meeting the above criteria are not guaranteed admission to the Nursing program. Since enrollment in the Nursing program is limited, those students meeting pre-nursing requirements will be evaluated by the Associate Degree Nursing Department and the most qualified students will be selected. The selection process takes place in February with students being notified by mail of their status in the class by the end of March annually.

Selection Criteria

1. SAT (Math and Verbal only) or ACT (Composite) scores by December 31 annually.
2. Completion of Biology 2212K; Math 1001, 1101, 1111 or 1113; and English 1101 (10 semester hours) by December 31 annually.
3. The overall GPA (includes coursework from all colleges attended) will be used for ranking purposes. The overall GPA must be at least 2.75.
4. Completion of the Associate Degree Nursing Application (found on the Department of Associate Degree Nursing web page on the DSC web site) between November 1 - February 1 annually. (There is a $20 application fee.)
5. 60th percentile overall on the ATI TEAS Test. Only two attempts will be allowed for consideration into the nursing sequence. Scores must be obtained by the end of the calendar year (December 31).

If a passing score is achieved, one to two additional attempts to improve scores is allowed with a maximum of three attempts. If a score below 60% is achieved with 2 attempts, a student cannot apply to the nursing program for five years. Students who take the TEAS test at other locations must provide copies of all test(s) taken to the nursing administrative assistant.

6. Applicants with an active and current LPN, CNA, EMT or Paramedic certification/licensure will receive point consideration on the admission worksheet.

Students must have been accepted to the college by January 15 annually to be eligible for class consideration. New students transferring to Dalton State College must submit unofficial transcripts to the nursing administrative assistant by January 15 to be eligible for class consideration. Only coursework completed by December 31 will be considered for program selection. Initial selection of each freshmen class will be made after the February 1 application deadline. The GPA must remain at 2.75 or better to keep a place in the class. Students selected will begin nursing courses the following fall semester. For admission and retention in the nursing program, each student must meet stated performance standards. For a copy of these standards, contact the Associate Degree Nursing office.

Former nursing students desiring to re-enter the nursing sequence and transfer students will be considered on a space available basis and MUST meet the current catalog requirements. This includes the current GPA Standard under Selection Criteria. Students withdrawing from the nursing sequence must notify the Administrative Assistant in the Department of Nursing to be eligible for re-entry into the program.

The following documents must be submitted each year the student is enrolled in a nursing class:

1. Physical examination report, with documentation of required immunizations (including influenza)
2. CPR certification (American Heart Association BLS Provider).
3. Background check and drug screen (on initial entry into nursing sequence)
4. Please be advised that there are additional costs for uniforms, equipment, testing, liability insurance, books and other items as needed.

PROGRAM NOTES

Students must maintain at least a “C” average while enrolled in the nursing program and shall earn at least a “C” in all nursing, math, and biological science courses, or the course shall be repeated. It is a privilege to take Biology 2212K or Biology 2215K without the prerequisite requirement of Biology 1107K. If a student takes Biology 2212K or Biology 2215K and withdraws or makes below a “C”, they cannot retake the course without taking Biology 1107K first. Science and/or nursing courses shall have been taken within five years of admission, readmission, or transfer into the program, or they shall be repeated. It is also highly recommended that the following are completed before entering the nursing sequence: Biology 2212K, Biology 2213K, and Biology 2215K.

Students may repeat only one nursing course for academic reasons. Students are ineligible to enter, re-enter or remain in the nursing sequence if unable to pass any of the required biological science courses or math courses after two attempts. Students must graduate within four years of entry into the nursing sequence. Students must also comply with all Associate Degree Nursing Department policies and Dalton State College policies.
Because the nursing program is time consuming and challenging with both theoretical and clinical components, students are encouraged to complete as many of the general education requirements as possible before entering the nursing sequence. Most of the nursing courses have one to two full-day clinical components as well that make it difficult to schedule other classes around except in the evenings.

**LPN TO RN OPTION**

Credit-by-Examination:

Dalton State College Department of Nursing offers Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to earn up to 14 semester credit hours by examination for the following first year nursing courses:

- **NURS 1111** Basic Nursing Care 6
- **NURS 1112** Pharmacology 2
- **NURS 1113** Nutrition 2
- **NURS 1115** Maternal Newborn Nursing 4

Total Hours 14

To be eligible to take the exam for credit, the Licensed Practical Nurse shall:

1. be admitted to Dalton State College.
2. be accepted for admission to the first nursing course in the program, NURS 1111.

To receive credit:

**Nursing 1111 & 1113**

1. Achieve a score of at least 75% on the Fundamentals Exam ($50 fee).

**Nursing 1112**

1. Achieve a score of at least the 75% on the Fundamentals Exam ($50 fee)
2. Achieve a score of at least 80% on the Department of Nursing Pharmacology Exam (no charge).

**Nursing 1115**

1. Achieve a score of at least 75% on the Maternal Newborn Nursing Exam ($50 fee).

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**Department of Nursing**

**Curriculum Grid**

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Total Hours: 37

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Total Hours: 70

* Courses must be completed before entry into the nursing sequence.
** Science and/or nursing courses shall have been taken within five years of admission, readmission, or transfer into the program, or they shall be repeated.
*** Grade of C or better required.
Courses

NURS 1111. Basic Nursing Care. 3-8-6 Units.
A foundation course that introduces nursing concepts and skills related to the care of multicultural individuals across the lifespan. Requires clinical applications using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care and simulated settings. (Career Course) (F)
Prerequisites: BIOL 2212K, MATH 1001, 1101, 1111, or 1113, ENGL 1101.
Corequisites: NURS 1112, NURS 1113, BIOL 2213K.

NURS 1112. Pharmacology. 2-0-2 Units.
Introduces pharmacological concepts including drug classifications, mathematical calculations, and principles of drug administration. Satisfies the computer literacy requirement. (Career Course) (F)
Corequisites: NURS 1111, NURS 1113, BIOL 2213K.

NURS 1113. Nutrition. 2-0-2 Units.
Introduces basic nutrition concepts of digestion, absorption and metabolism. Concentrates on essential nutrients including carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, vitamins and minerals. Addresses nutritional needs from infancy through adulthood and includes eating disorders. (Career Course) (F, S, M)

NURS 1115. Maternal Newborn Nursing. 3-14-4 Units.
A foundation course that concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the care of multicultural individuals in the maternal newborn setting. Addresses common well-defined health alterations as related to pregnancy, childbirth and the newborn as well as incorporating the child-bearing family. Requires clinical applications using evidenced-based practice in the maternal newborn and simulated settings. (Career Course) Prerequisite: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, BIOL 2213K Corequisite: BIOL 2215K, PSYC 1101

NURS 1116. Mental Health Nursing. 3-12-3 Units.
A foundation course that concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the care of multicultural individuals in the mental health setting. Addresses common well-defined health alterations and incorporates individuals with mental health issues. Requires clinical applications using evidenced-based practice in a variety of mental health, community based, and simulated settings. (Career Course) Prerequisite: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, BIOL 2213K Corequisite: BIOL 2215K, PSYC 1101

NURS 2011. Nursing Care Lifespan II. 3-17-9 Units.
A continuation course that concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the care of multicultural individuals across the lifespan. Addresses relevant well-defined health alterations. Requires clinical applications using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care, community based, and simulated settings. (Career course) (F)
Prerequisites: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, NURS 1114, BIOL 2215K.

NURS 2012. Nursing Care Lifespan III. 3-17-9 Units.
A culmination course that concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the care of multicultural individuals across the lifespan. Addresses complex well-defined health alterations. Involves team management of patients and health care workers. Requires clinical applications using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care, community based, and simulated settings. (Career Course) (S)

NURS 2013. Nursing Issues. 2-0-2 Units.
Discusses current issues in nursing, prepares students for the NCLEX-RN exam, and facilitates the transition from student to health care professional. Satisfies the computer literacy requirement. (Career Course) (S)

NURS 3000. Health Assessment. 2-2-3 Units.
A study of theory and skills needed to holistically assess the health of individuals across the life span. An introduction to a comprehensive assessment of groups/communities is included. This course includes 2 hours of lab practice. (S, M)
Prerequisites: RN licensure or permission of instructor.

NURS 3001. RN-BSN Nursing Examination. 0-0-19 Units.
19 hours of credit granted upon successful completion of NURS 4000.

NURS 3100. Perspectives on USA Health Sys. 3-0-3 Units.
This multi-disciplinary course focuses on nursing, business, and social perspectives of the American health care system. Issues related to safety and quality, access, finance, and politics will be emphasized. (F)
Corequisites: NURS 3000, NURS 4000.

NURS 4000. Evidenced-based Practice. 3-0-3 Units.
This course focuses on the understanding and use of nursing theory, nursing research, and evidence-based practices in clinical decision making regarding care of individuals, groups, and communities. (F)
Corequisites: NURS 3000, NURS 3100.

NURS 4100. Mgmt/Leadership-Groups/Comm. 3-9-6 Units.
A study of leadership/management theory and skills needed to effectively deliver safe and client-centered nursing care in a variety of settings including acute care, community health care, and international health care settings. This course includes clinical experience in leadership and community health arenas. (S)
Prerequisites: NURS 3000, NURS 3100, NURS 4000.
Corequisites: NURS 4200.

NURS 4200. Nursing Capstone. 3-0-3 Units.
A course designed to allow students to explore, discuss and begin to resolve issues in professional nursing and health care. In this course, students will complete a senior thesis project. (S) Corequisites: NURS 4100.