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 is under conditional approval by the Georgia Board of Nursing and 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 these 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, ACT, or Compass scores for placement into one of the following plans designed to meet the needs of persons with varying capacities and backgrounds:
   - Plan I: total SAT 970 or above (Math & Verbal scores only), or ACT composite 21 or above, or Bachelor’s degree, or for non-traditional students (those without SAT or ACT scores), test scores above exit scores in all learning support areas. Students shall complete Biology 2212, Math 1111, and English 1101 (10 hours) prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence.
   - Plan II: total SAT 870-960 (Math & Verbal scores only), or ACT composite 19-20 for non-traditional students, test scores above exit scores in two learning support areas. Students shall complete Biology 2212, 2213, Math 1111, English 1101, and Psychology 1101 (17 hours) prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence.
   - Plan III: total SAT 860 or below (Math & Verbal scores only), or composite below 19 on ACT, or for non-traditional students, test score above exit score in one or none of learning support areas. Students shall complete Biology 2212, 2213, 2215, Math 1111, English 1101, Psychology 1101, and one other general education course (24 hours) prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence.

4. Non-traditional students will be placed in a plan based on Compass scores.
5. Students with a Bachelor’s degree or higher will be placed in Plan I.

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 faculty of 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, ACT or Compass scores.
2. Completion of courses in the applicable plan (I, II, III).
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.
5. Number of applicable hours toward the nursing degree.
6. 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.
7. 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 the end of fall semester 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. Dental examination.
3. CPR certification (American Heart Association Health Care Provider).
4. Background check and drug screen (on initial entry into nursing sequence)
5. Please be advised that there are additional costs for uniforms, equipment, testing, liability insurance, books and other items as needed.

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 2212 or Biology 2215 without the pre-requisite requirement of Biology 1107. If a student takes Biology 2212 or Biology 2215 and withdraws or makes below a “C”, they cannot retake the course without taking Biology 1107 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. 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 College Algebra 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.

To meet the needs of persons with varying capacities and backgrounds, three alternate curriculum plans have been developed.

**Plan I**

Designed for applicants whose total minimum score is 970 (Math & Verbal scores only) on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or who have a minimum composite score of 21 on the ACT, or who have earned Bachelor’s degree, or for non-traditional students with Compass test scores exiting Learning Support classes. Students shall complete the following prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence:

- **BIOL 2212K** Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- **MATH 1111** College Algebra 3
- **ENGL 1101** English Composition I 3

**Total Hours** 10

**Plan II**

Required for applicants whose total SAT scores are between 870-960 (Math & Verbal scores only), or who have an ACT composite score of 19-20; or for non-traditional students with Compass test scores exiting all but one Learning support classes. Students shall complete the following prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence:

- **MATH 1111** College Algebra 3
- **BIOL 2212K** Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- **BIOL 2213K** Anatomy and Physiology II 4
- **ENGL 1101** English Composition I 3
- **PSYC 1101** Introduction to Psychology 3

**Total Hours** 17

**Plan III**

Required for applicants who achieve less than 860 (Math & Verbal scores only) on the SAT, or who have a composite score of less than 19 on the ACT, or for non-traditional students with Compass test scores exiting one or none of the learning support classes. Students shall complete the following and one other general education course prior to consideration for admission to the nursing sequence:

- **MATH 1111** College Algebra 3
- **BIOL 2212K** Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- **BIOL 2213K** Anatomy and Physiology II 4

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**LPN TO RN OPTION**

Credit-by-Examination:

Dalton State College Department of Nursing offers Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to earn up to 10 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

**Total Hours** 10

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

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**Department of Nursing**

**Curriculum Grid**

**First Year**

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOL 2215K</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ENGL 1101</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PSYC 1101</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One other general education course:</td>
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**Spring**

- **Total Hours** 12

- **BIOL 2212K** Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- **BIOL 2213K** Anatomy and Physiology II 4
- **BIOL 2215K** Microbiology 4

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 1113</td>
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<td>2 NURS 1116</td>
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Total Hours: 37

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<th>Second Year</th>
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<td>NURS 2012</td>
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<td>HIST 2111, 2112, or POLS 1101</td>
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<tr>
<td>or Elective</td>
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Total Hours: 23

Total Credit Hours: 60

**NURSING**

**Associate of Science in Nursing**

Prepares students for licensure as a Registered Nurse. This degree requires proof of computer literacy.

**General Education**

- BIOL 2212K Anatomy and Physiology I * 4
- BIOL 2213K Anatomy and Physiology II 4
- BIOL 2215K Microbiology 4
- COMM 1110 Fundamentals of Speech 3
- ENGL 1101 English Composition I * 3
- Humanities Elective ** 3
  - ARTS 1100 Art Appreciation
  - HUMN 1201 Expressions of Culture I
  - HUMN 1202 Expressions of Culture II
  - MUSC 1100 Music Appreciation
  - MUSC 1110 World Music
  - THEA 1100 Theatre Appreciation
- HIST 2111 United States History to 1877 3
  or HIST 2112 United States Hist since 1877
- MATH 1111 College Algebra * 3
- POLS 1101 American Government 3
- PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology 3

**Major Field Courses**

- NURS 1111 Basic Nursing Care 6
- NURS 1112 Pharmacology 2
- NURS 1113 Nutrition 2
- NURS 1115 Maternal Newborn Nursing 4
- NURS 1116 Mental Health Nursing 3
- NURS 2011 Nursing Care Lifespan II 9
- NURS 2012 Nursing Care Lifespan III 9
- NURS 2013 Nursing Issues 2

Total Hours 70

* Courses must be completed before entry into the nursing sequence.
** Satisfies the Global Perspective requirement.