

NURSING, LPN/PARAMEDIC BRIDGE

Associate of Science in Nursing

Dalton State College Pathway from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)/Paramedic to Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) enables the LPN and Paramedic to complete an accelerated 3-semester curriculum leading to an Associate of Science in Nursing Degree. The first semester requires one day-per-week on campus, then the remaining two semesters are online for didactic/theory with clinical/practicum rotations. This pathway recognizes that these health care practitioners already have a knowledge base that will allow them to succeed in an RN program at a faster pace.

This pathway requires that students complete the core coursework required for the ASN program. Applicants must complete Biology 2251K, 2252K & 2260K, English 1101, and either Math 1001, 1101, Math 1111, or Math 1113 prior to applying for the LPN/Paramedic Pathway. Transfer students should be aware that Dalton State does not accept transfer credit for Biology 2251K, 2252K, and 2260K from some colleges and technical schools. Students not receiving transfer credit have the option of taking a challenge exam through the Biology department or may choose to retake the courses. This should be completed before the application deadline.

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. Applicants must wait one semester to be eligible to apply after completing LPN or Paramedic certification.

This pace is challenging but is designed for the working LPN or Paramedic. Graduates of the pathway are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Upon successful completion, this pathway can lead into the online RN to BSN completion program with no loss of credit.

General Education

ENGL 1101	English Composition I ^{*/***}	3
MATH 1001	Quantitative Skills/Reasoning ^{*/***}	3
or MATH 1101	Intro to Mathematical Modeling	
or MATH 1111	College Algebra	
or MATH 1113	Precalculus Mathematics	
COMM 1110	Fundamentals of Speech	3
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective		3
Choose one		
ARTS 1100	Art Appreciation	
HUMN 1201	Expressions of Culture I	
HUMN 1202	Expressions of Culture II	
MUSC 1100	Music Appreciation	
MUSC 1110	World Music	
MUSC 1120	American Music	
THEA 1100	Theatre Appreciation	
Social Sciences		
HIST 2111	United States History to 1877	3
or HIST 2112	United States Hist since 1877	
POLS 1101	American Government	3

PSYC 1101	Introduction to Psychology	3
Major Field		
BIOL 2251K	Anatomy and Physiology I ^{*/**/***}	4
BIOL 2252K	Anatomy and Physiology II ^{*/**/***}	4
BIOL 2260K	Microbiology ^{*/**/***}	4
Nursing Classes: Sequential Order	**/***	
Semester I:		9
NURS 1112B	Pharm & Medication Administrat	
NURS 1121B	LPN/Paramedic to ASN	
Semester II		10
NURS 2015B	Med-Surg I/Mental Health	
Semester III		10
NURS 2016B	Med-Surg II/Nursing Issues	
LPN/Paramedic credit granted ⁺		8
Total Hours		70

- * Courses must be completed prior to applying for the LPN/Paramedic Pathway.
- ** Science and/or nursing courses must have been taken with six years of admission, readmission, or transfer into the program, or they shall be repeated.
- *** Grade of C or better required.
- + Students admitted to the LPN/Paramedic Pathway (Bridge) who hold a current, unencumbered valid license to practice as an LPN or Paramedic at the time of application will receive 8 hours of "credit by exam" after completing 13 hours of Nursing classes, NURS 1121B and N2015B.

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. Intro. Pharm. & Dosage Calc.. 3-0-3 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 1112B. Pharm & Medication Administrat. 3-0-3 Units.

This is an online course that highlights critical thinking techniques efficiently, safely, and accurately calculate medication dosages, as well as classifying and identifying medication characteristics. One purpose is to provide an understanding of the basics of pharmacology including pharmaceuticals, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics. Drug reactions in relation to side and adverse effects; hypersensitivity reactions; drug tolerance, cumulative effects and drug toxicity; drug interactions; precautions and contraindications, are also addressed to provide the nurse with a comprehensive understanding of the knowledge needed for safe medication administration. The second purpose includes interpreting, reading, and solving calculation problems found in the preparation of medication using measurements within the metric, apothecary, and household systems. Students will learn several methods for calculating dosages of parenteral, powdered, and oral medications, adults and pediatrics weight-based medication as well as intravenous medications. Prerequisite: BIOL 2212K, BIOL 2213K, ENGL 101, MATH 1001, 1101, 1111, OR 1113 Co-requisite: BIOL 2215K, NURS 1121B

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. 3-5-8 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 1121B. LPN/Paramedic to ASN. 3-3-6 Units.

This course is offered in the first semester of the LPN/Paramedic Pathway (Bridge) to RN in the nursing program. The course introduces the transition student to the framework of the program of study and provides the foundation for professional nursing practice in the promotion and maintenance of health, prevention of illness, and care of patients/clients experiencing alterations in physiological and psychobiological health. The existing knowledge base of the student will be built upon with the introduction of new concepts and skills. The application of the nursing process and concepts of holistic care, diversity, critical thinking, basic human needs, psychosocial needs, growth and development, legal/ethical issues, pharmacological principles, therapeutic interventions, and communication skills are emphasized. The role of the professional nurse is introduced and expanded to include patient/family education and collaboration with patients, families, the interdisciplinary team, and community agencies. This course includes classroom, skills lab, and virtual simulations. (Career Course) Prerequisites: BIOL 2212K, BIOL 2213K, ENGL 1101, MATH 1001, 1101, 1111, or 1113 Corequisites: BIOL 2215K, NURS 1112B

NURS 2015. Med-Surg I/Mental Health. 3-5-10 Units.

A continuation course offered in the third semester of the Associate of Science in Nursing program. The course addresses promotion and maintenance of physiological, psychological and psychobiological health, prevention of illness, and care of patients/clients experiencing well-defined health alterations. The course concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the medical-surgical care and mental health of multicultural individuals across the lifespan and requires clinical applications using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care, community-based, and simulated settings. (Career Course)(F, SP) Prerequisites: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, NURS 1115, NURS 1116, BIOL 2215K.

NURS 2015B. Med-Surg I/Mental Health. 3-5-10 Units.

A continuation course offered in the second semester of the LPN/Paramedic Pathway (Bridge) to an Associate of Science in Nursing. The course addresses promotion and maintenance of physiological, psychological and psychobiological health, prevention of illness, and care of patients/clients experiencing well-defined health alterations. The course concentrates on nursing concepts and skills related to the medical-surgical care and mental health of multicultural individuals across the lifespan and requires clinical applications using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care and community based settings. Prerequisites: NURS 1112B(O), NURS 1121B (H) Co-requisite: Any additional core courses needed for completion of the pathway.

NURS 2016. Med-Surg II/Nursing Issues. 3-5-10 Units.

A culmination course offered in the fourth semester of the Associate of Science in Nursing program. This course 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. Discusses current issues in nursing, prepares students for the NCLEX-RN exam, and facilitates the transition from student to health care professional. Requires clinical applications in a practicum environment using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care, community based, and simulated settings. (Career Course)(F, SP) Prerequisites: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, NURS 1115, NURS 2015, BIOL 2215K, and all general education courses.

NURS 2016B. Med-Surg II/Nursing Issues. 3-5-10 Units.

A culmination course offered in the fourth semester of the Associate of Science in Nursing program. This course 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. Discusses current issues in nursing, prepares students for the NCLEX-RN exam, and facilitates the transition from student to health care professional. Requires clinical applications in a practicum environment using evidence-based practice in a variety of health care, community based, and simulated settings. (Career Course)(F, SP) Prerequisites: NURS 1111, NURS 1112, NURS 1113, NURS 1115, NURS 2015, BIOL 2215K, and all general education courses.

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 3197. Professional Nursing Practice. 3-0-3 Units.

This course is designed to enhance and facilitate the development of the RN student to the role of a BSN prepared professional nurse. The focus is on developing personal and professional growth to promote better advocacy, critical thinking, educator skills, effective communication, and leadership abilities in a complex healthcare environment. Course content includes concepts from historical contributions and theories that have guided the profession, to promoting professional philosophies, visions, and practices to help prepare for future trends in healthcare. Topics relate to culture and diversity, professional ethics, political and legal issues in nursing, and technology. Students will apply knowledge of standards of practice, evidence-based practice, and caring science to course topics.

NURS 3297. Nursing Research and Applicat. 3-0-3 Units.

This course is designed to provide the registered nurse with an overview of the major research concepts as applied to the profession of nursing, to scholarship, and to clinical practice. Analysis, critique, and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative research approaches, including ethical implications, for evidence-based nursing practice will be examined. Emphasis is placed on how to critique, analyze, and apply published and empirical research findings to evidence-based nursing practice.(F, SP)

NURS 3397. Health Assessment. 3-0-3 Units.

This course is a study of the advanced knowledge and skills beyond the Associates' degree in Nursing, designed to enhance health assessment for nursing practice in the care of individuals across the lifespan. Theory and skills essential to completing a comprehensive and holistic health history and physical examination are emphasized. In addition, the holistic delivery of care will include cultural, spiritual, nutritional, alternative, complementary therapies, and health promotion for the delivery of safe and person-centered care. The importance of comprehensive and accurate documentation as a tool for effective communication amongst the interdisciplinary team is reviewed.(F, Sp)

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.(F, Sp)

NURS 4497. Community Health Nursing. 3-0-3 Units.

This course is designed to examine the concepts and principles of community and population health nursing. The course will provide an overview of health issues that transcend borders, class, race, ethnicity, and culture. Emphasis is placed on roles, levels of prevent, principles of epidemiology, public health policy, and disaster preparedness.

NURS 4500. Community Leadership Practicum. 0-3-3 Units.

This course includes clinical precepting experience in leadership and community health arenas. This practicum course will build on the concepts and knowledge gained from previous nursing courses allowing for the application of theories and concepts associated with nursing leadership, research, and management of care. A clinical practicum will enhance these skills.(F, Sp)

NURS 4597. Leadership & Management. 3-0-3 Units.

This course introduces the leadership roles and management functions of professional registered nurses within the structure of an organization. The management process provides the foundational structure for the course, while the theoretical framework for this course is established through exploration of leadership styles, organizational theory, and management theory. Quality assurance and the provision of evidence-based, patient-centered care and collaborative relationships are emphasized. The impact of political and legislative processes, the integration of informatics, and the legal and ethical issues in management are also discussed.