RN-to-BS (Completion Program)

Graduates of the RN-to-BS program will build on a foundation of nursing knowledge to assume leadership for providing quality health care, integrate evidence and ethics for sound decision making, and collaborate inter-professionally for advocacy of patients, families and communities in a contemporary healthcare environment.

Pre-Licensure (4-Year Program, Accelerated Program)

Graduates of the pre-licensure professional nursing programs will build the foundation of professional nursing knowledge to enable them to assume leadership for providing quality healthcare, integrating evidence and ethics for sound decision making, collaborating intra- and inter-professionally for advocacy of patients, families and communities, and engaging in lifelong learning to maintain practice excellence in a contemporary healthcare environment.

Program goals include preparing a nurse who:

1.) Synthesize knowledge from liberal arts, sciences, and nursing as a basis for nursing practice (summative).

2.) Assimilate professional values of caring, integrity, respect for human dignity, and social justice into personal practice. (summative)

3.) Implement activities of nursing practice with respect, understanding, and sensitivity for cultural, ethnic, gender and age diversity of individuals, families, and communities to promote, restore, and maintain optimal health. (formative)

4.) View the client as the individual, family and/or population, with a perspective that extends from a person and family to community, national and global health. (formative)

5.) Practice nursing along the health continuum of health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, acute care and chronic disease management and end of life care. (formative)

6.) Collaborate with interdisciplinary health care providers, clients and other stakeholders in the planning and delivery of health care. (formative)

7.) Integrate core competencies of critical thinking and scientific inquiry with ethical principles and legal standards as a basis for making professional judgments. (formative)

8.) Employ scientific strategies and research capacity to provide evidence based care. (formative)

9.) Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for competency of nursing practice through continued learning and professional development. (summative)
10.) Assume a leadership role in meeting national and local goals in nursing and health care. (summative).

Mission

To provide a comprehensive educational experience to form and inspire development of professional nurses who embrace excellence in nursing practice to provide holistic healthcare to all members of society, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Sister Louise de Marillac.

Program

Niagara University’s Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nursing is a Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Based upon Imogene King’s open systems interaction framework, nursing courses are organized sequentially in clinical and professional tracks. There are three educational tracks leading to a BS with a major in Nursing.

One track is a traditional four year program in which students select nursing as their major. The nursing courses are offered along with the liberal arts and science courses needed to form a well-rounded professional nurse. Nursing theory courses are aligned with a clinical skills course in an on campus skill center, and with clinical experiences at area health care facilities with which Niagara has affiliation agreements. These experiences and courses enable the traditional student to be educated in an accredited program which prepares him/her for the state licensure exam, entry level professional nursing practice, and application for continuing educational advancement in a specialty area for those seeking advanced practice options.

The second track is a completion program for RNs who are prepared in an accredited associate degree program or hospital school of nursing. This program uses active learning strategies suitable for the adult learners. A combination of one day on campus programming and electronic delivery supports its flexibility and accessibility. Ten nursing major courses (30 credits) are taken at NU and 10 course units/30 credits are transferred from the associate degree (AD) program or Diploma School of Nursing as nursing “validation” credits. A bachelor’s degree at Niagara University has a liberal arts requirement, which is in accordance with university policy and criteria set by the College of Arts and Sciences. Liberal arts courses taken at the associate degree program that are eligible for transfer will be applied to some of the required courses. The liberal arts courses needed will be tailored to a student’s schedule.

A third track is an accelerated BS in Nursing program for persons seeking a career change, who have already obtained a bachelor’s degree in another field. Admission to this program is competitive and requires completion of seven prerequisite courses (C+ grades required in each) and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. The prerequisite courses include (7): Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Microbiology, Pathophysiology, Chemistry, Developmental Psychology and Statistics. The accelerated track is for a person who can commit to a full-time program of study for one year. Careful selection and small class size supports student success in this program.

4 Year B.S. – Nursing Arts & Sciences

Units

General Education Requirement 20
*All Niagara University students entering as freshmen are required to take the one credit Niagara University Beginning seminar course (NUB 102) in addition to the 20 Gen. Ed. Requirements.

See General Education

Foundation Courses   9
Distribution Courses  9

BIO 212 1
PSY 101 1
MAT 102 1
SOC 322 1
CIS 232 1
CIS 232 1
CIS 468 1

Major Requirement   23
NUR 376 1
NUR 350 1
NUR 354/254L 1
NUR 372 1
NUR 399 1
NUR 315 1
NUR 450 1
NUR 460 1
NUR 461 1
NUR 466 1
NUR 352 1
NUR 353 1
NUR 355 1
NUR 463 1
R.N. to B.S. Completion Program—Nursing Arts & Sciences

Units

General Education Requirement 20

See General Education

Foundation Courses 9

Distribution Courses 9

BIO 212 1

MAT 102 1

CIS 232 1

Major Requirement 20

NUR 315 1

NUR 354 1

NUR 355 1

NUR 376 1

NUR 450 1

NUR 464 1
NUR 466 1
NUR 468 1
NUR 470 1
NUR 485 1
Validation Credit from Associate Degree 10

Accelerated B.S. – Nursing Arts & Sciences

Units

General Education Requirement

Prior institutional credits will be transferred.

Major Requirement 20

NUR 350 1
NUR 376 1
NUR 356 A/B/C 1
NUR 354/254L 1
NUR 450 1
NUR 372 1
NUR 399 1
NUR 460 1
NUR 461 1
NUR 352 1
NUR 353 1
NUR 466 1
NUR 464 1
NUR 355 1
NUR 463 1
NUR 485 1
NUR 470 1
NUR 468 1
NCLEX Review

Courses

**NUR 315 - General Pathophysiology**

This online course is designed to correlate basic knowledge of normal physiology with dysfunctional body mechanisms. Students will gain understanding of disease processes through study of causative mechanisms and the signs and symptoms which reflect disease processes and disturbances in homeostasis at the cellular, tissue and major organ level.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 350 - Nursing Concepts I**

This 1st level course introduces students to beginning generalist nursing practice. Concepts and skills basic to nursing will be integrated using traditional classroom and skills laboratory methods. A theoretical component will include scope of practice, communication, decision making and nursing process. Generic nursing intervention skills that support planning, managing and delivering patient care will include assessment of patients in their environment, safety and asepsis, comfort and hygiene, activities of daily living and supportive care for mobility, respiration, nutrition, elimination and other body functions.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 352 - The Developing Family**

Nursing science and knowledge related to the developing family, to include child bearing, labor and delivery and post partum health and deviations will be addressed. Acute and chronic health problems of children and adolescents will be integrated with developmental needs, as related to nursing practice. Gynecological health and respective nursing practice will be incorporated.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 353 - Care of the Developing Family**

This clinical based course combines theoretical knowledge gained in NUR 352 and 466 with clinical practice. The student will apply principles of nursing science and evidence based care in the specialty areas of obstetrical, gynecological and pediatric nursing. Inter-professional collaboration in planning and implementing care will be addressed. The role of nurse as advocate and educator in support of the family system will be addressed.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 354 - Health Assessment and Promotion**
Knowledge and skills are developed to perform and document a comprehensive health examination, physical, psychosocial and spiritual, of a child and an adult, including unique assessment of elderly adults, using contemporary technological assessment tools. The student will identify health needs of individuals for promotion, risk reduction and nursing intervention.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 254L - Health Assessment & Promotion Lab**

Companion Lab for NUR 354 Health Assessment & Promotion

Credit Hours: 1

**NUR 355 - Building Healthy Communities**

Epidemiological concepts are applied to health of populations. Role of nurse in planning, delivering and evaluating programs to communities is addressed. The trans-theoretical model of stages of readiness to change is contrasted with King’s Interactive system theory. Public health mandates and research-based nursing interventions are applied to population based health.

Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: NUR 354, NUR 466

**NUR 356 A/B/C - Introduction / Intermediate / Advanced Pharmacology (1 credit each, 3 credits total)**

This course provides an overall view of drugs used for treatment of clinical disorders if patients at all levels of the age continuum. Pertinent information about specific drug classifications, dosage, interactions and nursing implications will be discussed in three sections, A, B and C. Each section will be one credit and cover essential content pertinent to the nursing theory and clinical practicum associated with the semester.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 376 - Foundations of Professional Nursing**

Multidimensionality of professional nursing is explored. Personal vision, values, philosophy, goals are examined. Contemporary issues are related to scope of practice, standards of care, legal and ethical guidelines. King’s Theory of Goal Attainment exemplifies theory based practice. Other health related theories are compared to build a personal framework for practice. Evidence based practice is introduced.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 399 - Clinical Care of the Individual**

In this clinical course, the student applies principles of nursing care management, knowledge and skills associated with the delivery of professional nursing care appropriate to patient health needs that is based on mutual goal setting with patients, inter-professional collaboration with colleagues and research based evidence in health care delivery settings.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 450 - Research Process**
Emphasis is on accessing, analyzing and critiquing research in scientific literature to determine implications for practice. The scientific process to conduct research is examined. Ethical considerations are discussed. Professional nurse's role in identifying potential research problems, participating in research, evaluating its content and synthesizing findings for evidence-based practice is examined.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 460 - Complex Patient Centered Care**

This course focuses on nursing science and knowledge applicable to persons with imbalances of health in complex conditions. Bio/psycho/social threats and genetic implications in relation to complex health imbalances will be examined. Unique aspects of age and developmentally appropriate communication, therapeutics, nutritional interventions will be related to specific complex health imbalances. Nursing implications will be discussed.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 461 - Clinical Care Complex Disease Management**

This clinical course combines knowledge gained in NUR 460 with clinical practice in the care of the maturing individual and family. Contemporary evidence based nursing interventions are used to design and deliver patient focused care to persons with imbalances of health due to complex conditions. Skill in providing developmentally appropriate communication, therapeutics, pharmacological and nutritional nursing interventions will be a major focus.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 463 - Nursing in Community Health**

This clinical course combines theoretical knowledge gained in NUR 355 with clinical practice in the care of the community. The student utilizes the nursing process, research findings, population based data and interdisciplinary collaboration for health promotion, restoration and maintenance of the community. Principles and practices of public health nursing are incorporated. This course emphasizes levels of prevention, safety, social determinants of health in the care of persons, when person is defined as an aggregate. 3 credits/135 clinical hours.

Credit Hours: 3

**NUR 464 - Administration & Management in Health Care**

Administration and Management (3 Credits) -Principles are applied to the unique business and service of health care delivery. Goal-setting, decision-making, ethical treatment of stakeholders are grounded in organizational mission and policy. Unit management tools include budgeting, staffing, staff development, team building, problem solving and conflict management. Delegation and communication styles are discussed.

Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: NUR 376

**NUR 466 - Nursing Care of Families Throughout the Life Span**
Nursing Care of Families Throughout the Life Span (3 Credits)- This course focuses upon knowledge and skills to apply nursing science and process to families across the life span. Emphasis is on family as a social system. The nurse assumes role of advocate, collaborator, case manager and change partner to maintain health, treat deficiencies, facilitate restoration, support end of life.

Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: NUR 354

NUR 468 - Information Technology for Health Care

This online course familiarizes the nurse with terminology, standards and rationale for health system information technology. Computer systems to access, enter and manage information are demonstrated. Students employ search and retrieval of scientific literature to support evidence-based practice. Ethics regarding privacy, information storing, sharing, and security are discussed.

Credit Hours: 3

NUR 470 - Leadership in Nursing & Health

Leadership in Health Care Environments (3 Credits)- System thinking is applied to health care. Role of mission and vision in creating a values-driven organizational culture is discussed. Strategic planning, corporate ethics, leadership styles and theories of change are related to health systems. Trends in public policy are applied to health care. Interdisciplinary relationships are described.

Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: NUR 376, NUR 464

NUR 485 - Clinical Internship

This capstone course provides experiences to synthesize and apply baccalaureate nursing knowledge and skills in the professional nurse role. A concentrated clinical will be coordinated with a prepared clinical agency preceptor and the student in selected areas of nursing. Experiences that enhance the newly defined professional role are emphasized.

Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: All other nursing courses