



**Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
for Registered Nurses  
RN-BSN  
GPS/Online  
Nursing**

**Program Coordinator: M. Cash**

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) for Registered Nurses provides a unique alternative to the traditional method of pursuing a Bachelor's degree. This program is a transformational learning experience leading to personal and professional skill development designed specifically to meet the needs of adult learners.

The King Nursing faculty believes nursing serves society through the competent and compassionate delivery of direct and indirect health care services to individuals, families, and communities, guided by Christian values. As a professional discipline, nursing for the registered nurse student (RN-BSN) is based on a strong foundation of knowledge from the humanities, arts and sciences, and from nursing and health-related disciplines, which integrate academic and practice components. The program uses a cohort structure, accelerated pace; it features applied learning and participative methodology.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

These outcomes address what students should know or be able to do upon completion of the academic program.

1. Students will demonstrate readiness to practice professional nursing at the baccalaureate level, as evidenced by achievement of essential baccalaureate-level program learning outcomes.
2. Students will be able to perform a comprehensive health assessment in order to identify actual and potential health risks.
3. Students will be able to analyze evidence presented in research literature in order to identify best nursing care practices.

**Program Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the program, all graduates are prepared for professional nursing practice in a variety of hospital or community settings, and they have been provided with an adequate foundation for graduate study. In the RN-BSN program, the AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2008) serve as the program outcomes. The AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice are these:

1. Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice
2. Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety
3. Scholarship for Evidence-Based Practice
4. Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology
5. Healthcare Policy, Finance and Regulatory Environments
6. Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes
7. Clinical Prevention and Population Health
8. Professionalism and Professional Values
9. Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

King University's RN-BSN program prepares graduates to assume professional healthcare roles through integrating evidence-based practice, leadership, spiritual and culturally competent care, citizenship, and service into a career focused on achieving meaningful lives with a pursuit of transforming culture in Christ.

The total number of hours required at King to complete the RN-BSN degree is a minimum of 48 semester hours; the total hours depends on a student's prior academic experience. The program is full-time and is designed so that a transfer student with 76 credit hours completed at an approved institution will graduate in four semesters. The student's prior coursework must include all prerequisites for the RN-BSN program and King's minimum general education requirements.

On-ground nursing courses meet one night per week for four hours. The courses last for seven weeks. The RN-BSN program is also offered online; online courses are seven weeks long, also.

### **The Quest and Other Semester-Long Required Courses**

All RN-BSN students are required to take one 4 s.h. course each semester in addition to their nursing courses. These semester long courses are in "Quest" format of five 3-week long modules. Courses in the Quest format either meet online or face-to-face over the 15-week semester, once every 3 weeks. TCOM 2410 is taken in the student's first semester in the RN-BSN program. The other three courses can be taken in any order.

1. TCOM 2410 Writing for the Health Professions
2. One Quest course.  
Students choose one 4 s.h. Liberal Studies (LIBS) course
  - a. LIBS 3000 The Quest for Self-Knowledge\*
  - b. LIBS 3400 The Quest for Community and Ordered Society\*\*
  - c. LIBS 3600 The Quest for Stewardship and the Ethical Responsibility
  - d. LIBS 4000 The Quest for Career and Vocation

\* Satisfies the general education Humanities requirement.  
\*\* Satisfies the general education U.S. and Global Citizenship requirement

The Quest courses are interdisciplinary, each focusing on an essential theme in the Humanities. The goal is to examine the elements that figure in the development of character and to provoke students to more serious consideration of their own character and its impact on their vocations. Each course requires reading, writing, and class discussion. Professors are King faculty members from Humanities fields such as like English, history, or religion.

3. RELG 1001 Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice (4 s.h.).  
This course stresses understanding and articulating a Christian worldview through a survey of Christian ideas and practices, utilizing both Biblical texts and human witness in other writings.
4. NURS 3005 Pathophysiology (4 s.h.)  
This course examines disease processes through the human life span and alterations in body systems. The course also presents implications for nursing care when body systems are altered by disease.

### **RN-BSN Application Packet Requirements**

1. Submit a completed application.
2. Submit official transcripts from all prior colleges or diploma programs attended.
  - a. Applicants with less than a cumulative 2.75 undergraduate GPA on a 4.0 scale may be considered on a conditional basis.
3. Submit a copy of current unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse from the Tennessee Board of Nursing or a compact Multi-State license. Applicant should not be on probation and must report any past or current disciplinary action taken by a State Board. If a student fails to pass the licensure exam but he/she has already been admitted into the nursing program, he/she will be allowed to continue in non-nursing courses, but must receive a passing grade on the NCLEXRN in order to continue in nursing courses.
4. Submit current American Heart Association BCLS (CPR) certification (adult, child, and infant).

### **Transfer Credit**

Students wishing to transfer a nursing course(s) completed at another college or university, as a substitute for a King University required course, must provide a course syllabus to be evaluated by the nursing faculty for equivalence in theoretical and clinical content. The Dean of the School of Nursing has the final decision on the equivalence of a course. Transfer courses are seldom evaluated for substitution of NURS or LIBS courses, since the RN-BSN curriculum is specifically designed to fulfill the 48 semester hours needed to meet residency requirements for a Bachelor's Degree.

### **Clinical Learning**

Nursing practice requires a broad array of essential competencies. The RN-BSN program requires lab practice in physical assessment, clinical change projects, community teaching, and service learning activities. Clinical learning activities that meet essential competencies are embedded in courses throughout the plan of study. Students individually and supportively participate in therapeutic communication, assessment, change theory, process improvement, leadership, delegation, and time management exercises. Students engage in a reverse problem-based learning pedagogy that fosters critical thinking as they identify problems, conceptualize improvement processes, and develop possible solutions. Clinical experiences promote care delivery to individuals, families, and populations across the human lifespan that is holistic, culturally competent, spiritually astute, fiscally responsible, and ethically sound.

### **Latest Technology**

Contemporary technology enhances the educational experience and preparation for meaningful and successful careers. The faculty encourages the use of web-enhanced activities to influence and promote learning for those receiving and providing healthcare. Experience with beginning level informatics competency is embedded in several nursing courses.

### **Technology Requirements**

Laptop computer with minimum of Microsoft Office 2010 or later, wireless capability, and webcam required

### **Degree Requirements**

If students transfer fewer than 76 semester hours, additional courses will be required to complete 124 total semester hours in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. King requires that 48 semester hours be completed at King, to include at least 32

semester hours of the major subject, in order to receive a degree from King (students may transfer up to 16 s.h. of their major courses). The additional courses may be taken prior to, during, or following the completion of course work for the BSN degree. An advanced placement option consisting of standardized achievement tests is available; students should check with their Student Success Specialists about this possibility.

All students who graduate from King University must have completed 30 semester hours of general education in the liberal arts and sciences. Students must have at least one course in each of the following categories:

- Citizenship (history, political science)
- Written communication (first-year English composition)
- College level mathematics (MATH 1560 Introduction to Statistics preferred)
- Human Culture (intermediate-level foreign language, psychology, sociology, religion, biblical studies, or anthropology)—This category is satisfied by the required course RELG 1001 Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice.
- Humanities (literature, art history, music history, theater history, film studies, photography, studio art, theater, vocal music, instrumental music)
- Science with laboratory

Once these categories are fulfilled, the remainder of the required 30 semester hours in general education can be electives in the liberal arts and sciences.

All nursing courses are designed to meet the standards as outlined in *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2008); *Nursing Scope & Standards of Practice* (ANA 2010); *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (ANA, 2008); *TN Law Regulating the Practice of Nursing* (June 2010, rev.) & the *Laws Governing the Practice of Nursing and Health Professions in General Code of Virginia* (Dec. 2011).

### **RN-BSN Advanced Placement**

In an attempt to minimize barriers to entry into the baccalaureate level of education for registered nurses, and with the intent to encourage educational mobility for the diploma or associate degree nurse, the King School of Nursing offers an opportunity to validate demonstrated competence beyond that which has been verified through previous academic achievement.

Awarding academic credit is accomplished through successful completion of a validation process which will be offered each fall and spring semester. To be eligible for the advanced placement credit, the student's file must show evidence of:

1. Graduation from an NLNAC accredited diploma or associate degree program,
2. Completed nursing courses with a "C" grade or higher,
3. Current, valid, and unencumbered Tennessee or compact license as a registered nurse,
4. Current work experience as a registered nurse (résumé),
5. Validation of clinical competency (current employer performance evaluation), and
6. Two letters of reference documenting the potential to succeed in the RN-BSN program. One must be from a professor who has taught the applicant.

Validation consists of successfully passing a series of Comprehensive exams that validate general nursing knowledge. The exams are offered through NLN. Advanced notification of exam details will be posted. Students should contact their Student Success Specialists for

further information. If the cut-off score is not achieved, exams may be repeated one time only.

RN students who do not choose to earn credit through the exams are encouraged to take courses at King, particularly MATH 1560 Introduction to Statistics.

### **BSN Student Handbook**

RN-BSN students are required to follow School of Nursing policies set forth in the BSN Student Handbook and outlined on course syllabi. All RN-BSN students are required to read and follow university policies relative to appeals and grievances listed in the Student Handbook.

### **Grade Requirements**

A grade of C+ or higher is required in all nursing courses and a C- in all other required program courses. If a failing grade is earned, students must repeat the course. If more than two grades of 2.3 (C-) or lower are earned, despite the student maintaining a 2.75 GPA, the student will be dismissed from the program. RN-BSN students may reapply one time only.

### **Comprehensive Competency Assessment**

All students graduating from King University, regardless of major, must demonstrate competency in their major field prior to graduation. To fulfill this university-mandated graduation requirement, the School of Nursing has chosen to have RN-BSN students address, in a reflection paper and portfolio, the standards found in *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (2008) and the School of Nursing Professional Pillars. The specific assignment parameters are thoroughly delineated in the “Demonstrating Achievement of Core Competencies for the Registered Nurse” document.

Students will use self-reflection to describe specific moments in clinical practice that were enhanced by the learning experience in the nursing, religion, or Quest courses and link these descriptions to the Essentials and Professional Pillars. The portfolio will include exemplary assignments and activities demonstrating achievement of competency for each outcome.

The completed paper and portfolio are due by the end of week three of the Capstone course. Capstone faculty will review the paper and portfolio against the grading rubric, then forward results to the School of Nursing. The rating will not affect the Capstone course grade but will be the grade for NURS 4990. The completed paper and portfolio are graduation requirements.

### **RN-BSN Major Requirements**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| NURS 3005   |        |
| The Science of Human Pathophysiology.....             | 4 s.h. |
| NURS 3310   |        |
| Dimensions of Professional Nursing .....              | 4 s.h. |
| NURS 3315   |        |
| Introduction to Healthcare Informatics.....           | 4 s.h. |
| NURS 3330   |        |
| Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice.....          | 4 s.h. |
| NURS 3410   |        |
| Health and Physical Assessment .....                  | 4 s.h. |
| NURS 3420   |        |
| Spiritual and Cultural Considerations in Nursing..... | 4 s.h. |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| NURS 4310   |                |
| Nursing Ethics .....  | 4 s.h.         |
| NURS 4410   |                |
| Principles of Leadership and Management.....                  | 4 s.h.         |
| NURS 4420   |                |
| Capstone for Registered Nurses .....                          | 4 s.h.         |
| <i>Choose from the following courses</i> .....                | 4 s.h.         |
| LIBS 3000   |                |
| The Quest for Self-Knowledge (4 s.h.)                         |                |
| LIBS 3400   |                |
| The Quest for Community and an Ordered Society (4 s.h.)       |                |
| LIBS 3600   |                |
| The Quest for Stewardship and Ethical Responsibility (4 s.h.) |                |
| LIBS 4000   |                |
| The Quest for Career and Vocation (4 s.h.)                    |                |
| RELG 1001   |                |
| Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice .....           | 4 s.h.         |
| TCOM 2410   |                |
| Writing for the Health Professions .....                      | 4 s.h.         |
| (Co-requisite NURS 3310)                                      |                |
| NURS 4990   |                |
| Comprehensive Assessment .....                                | <u>0</u> s.h.  |
| <b>Total</b> .....  | <b>48 s.h.</b> |