

## **ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM**

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 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 approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, (212) 363-5555). 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 may 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 School of 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. Placement in one of the following plans:
  - a. Plan I: total SAT 970 or above, or ACT composite 21 or above, or Bachelor's degree, or for non-traditional students, test above exit score in all learning support areas.
  - b. Plan II: total SAT 870-960, or ACT composite 19-20, or for non-traditional students, test above the exit score in two learning support areas.
  - c. Plan III: 860 or below on SAT, or composite below 19 on ACT, or for non-traditional students, test above the exit scores in one or none of the learning support areas.
4. Non-traditional students (those without SAT or ACT scores) 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.
6. Minimum Nurse Entrance Test (NET) scores of 64 Reading and 69 composite, or a 60th percentile overall with no less than the 50th percentile in Math, Verbal, and Science on the Pre-Admission Examination (PAX) — RN. Only two attempts within one calendar year will be allowed for consideration into the nursing sequence. Scores must be obtained by the end of a calendar year (December 31) for fall nursing sequence consideration.

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 Nursing Division and the most qualified students will be selected.

### Selection Criteria

1. SAT, ACT or Compass scores.
2. Completion of courses in the applicable plan (I, II, III).
3. Dalton State College G.P.A. of 2.75 or better. If Dalton State College grades are 2.75 or better, transfer grades of courses applicable to the degree are awarded with DSC credits and must be 2.75 or better when averaged. If no DSC credit, transfer grades of courses applicable to the degree must average 2.75 or higher.
4. Completion of a Nursing Sequence Application form by designated due date.
5. Number of applicable hours toward the nursing degree.
6. Minimum Nurse Entrance Test scores of 64 in Reading and 69 Composite, or a 60th percentile overall with no less than the 50th percentile in Math, Verbal, and Science on the Pre-Admission Examination (PAX) RN.

Initial selection of each class will be made after the fall semester. Students must have been accepted to the college and/or declared nursing as their major by the end of the calendar year (December 31) to be eligible for class consideration. The GPA must remain at 2.75 or better to keep a place in the class. On a space available basis, further selections will be made following spring and summer semesters. 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. To obtain a copy of these standards contact the School of Nursing.

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 contact the Dean of the School of Nursing before withdrawal 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.
2. Dental status report.
3. CPR certification (American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer or American Heart Association Health Care Provider).
4. Background Check (upon clinical facility request)

In addition to tuition, fees and textbooks, the student must meet the following expenses:

1. Uniforms (first year) \$175.00 (approximately)
2. Liability insurance (each year) \$15.00
3. Testing - \$160.00 (each year)

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. Science and/or nursing courses shall have been taken within five years of 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 School of Nursing 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 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or a minimum composite score of 21 on the ACT, or an earned Bachelor's degree, or for non-traditional students with test scores above the exit score 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**

Required for applicants whose total SAT scores are between 870-960, or an ACT composite score of 19-20, or for non-traditional students with test scores above the 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**

Required for applicants who achieve less than 860 on the SAT, or a composite score of less than 19 on the ACT, or for non-traditional students with test scores above the exit scores in one or none of the 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.

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. It is also highly recommended that Biology 2212, 2213, and 2115 are completed before entering the nursing sequence.

## **LPN TO RN OPTION**

### **Credit-by-Examination: Nursing 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, and 1105**

Dalton State College Nursing Division offers Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to earn up to 10 semester credit hours by examination for the following first year nursing courses: Nursing 1111 (Basic Nursing Care - 6 hours), 1112 (Pharmacology - 2 hours), 1113 (Nutrition - 2 hours).

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, Nursing 1111.

To receive credit:

Nursing 1111 & 1113

1. Achieve a score of at least the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile on the NLN Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam I PN -RN (cost: approximately \$55.00).
2. Satisfactorily complete prerequisites for Nursing 1111, 1112, 1113.

Nursing 1112

1. Achieve a score of at least the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile on the NLN Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam I PN -RN (cost: approximately \$55.00).
2. Satisfactorily complete prerequisites for Nursing 1111, 1112, 1113
3. Achieve a score of at least 80% on a divisional Pharmacology Examination (no charge).

## School of Nursing CURRICULUM GRID

### YEAR 1

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>
BIOL 2213	4	Biology 2215	4
Nursing 1111	6	Psychology 1101	3
Nursing 1112	2	Nursing 1114	8
Nursing 1113	<u>2</u>		
	14		<u>15</u>

<b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>
Communications 1110	3
History 2111 or 2112	3
or Political Science 1101	3
or Humanities Elective	
	<u>9</u>

### YEAR 2

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>
Nursing 2011	9	Nursing 2012	9
History 2111 or 2112	3	Nursing 2013	1
or Political Science 1101	3		
or Humanities Elective			
	<u>12</u>		<u>10</u>

## NURSING

### Associate of Science in Nursing

Prepares students for licensure as a Registered Nurse. This degree requires passing or exempting the Regents' Testing Program and proof of computer literacy.

Course	Number		Credit Hours
<b>GENERAL EDUCATION (33 Hours)</b>			
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
HIST	2111 or 2112	United States History	3
MATH	1111	College Algebra	3
POLS	1101	American Government	3
PSYC	1101	Introduction to Psychology	3
Elective		ENGL 1102, 1201, HUMN 1201, MUSC 1100, or THEA 1100	3
<b>MAJOR FIELD COURSES (37 Hours)</b>			
NURS	1111	Basic Nursing Care	6
NURS	1112	Pharmacology	2
NURS	1113	Nutrition	2
NURS	1114	Nursing Care Across the Lifespan I	8
NURS	2011	Nursing Care Across the Lifespan II	9
NURS	2012	Nursing Care Across the Lifespan III	9
NURS	2013	Nursing Issues	1
		Total	70