

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM

Dalton State College offers a nursing program leading to the Associate of Science - Nursing Degree. 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 (3343 Peachtree Road, N.E., Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326. Phone (404) 975-5000; Fax (404) 975-5020; www.nlnac.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 may require background checks and drug screenings that can result in refusal of 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.

Associate of Science in Nursing (Registered Nurse)

Course	Number		Credit Hours
GENERAL EDUCATION (33 hours)			
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
ENGL	1102	English Composition II*	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		ARTS 1100, HUMN 1201 or 1202, MUSC 1100 or THEA 1100	3
MAJOR FIELD COURSES (37 hours)			
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 HOURS			70

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 4 years of entry into the nursing sequence. Students must also comply with all School of Nursing policies.

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:
 - a. Plan I: total SAT 970 or above, 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.
 - b. Plan II: total SAT 870-960, or ACT composite 19-20 or 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.
 - c. Plan III: SAT 860 or below, 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.

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 2215 be completed before entering 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 School of Nursing 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 will be included for an overall (DSC and transfer) GPA that will be used for ranking purposes. The overall GPA must be at least 2.75.
4. Completion of the School of Nursing Application Form (found on School of Nursing web page on the DSC web site) by designated due date (December 1 - February 1).
5. Number of applicable hours toward the nursing degree.
6. 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 will be allowed for consideration into the nursing sequence. Scores must be obtained by the end of the calendar year (December 31), unless otherwise posted on the School of Nursing web site, for fall nursing sequence consideration.

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. 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).

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 Fee (each semester) - \$80.00
4. Lab Fee (each semester) - \$25.00