DEPARTMENT OF
BACHELOR’S DEGREE
NURSING

2017 STUDENT HANDBOOK
MISSION STATEMENT

Dalton State College provides a diverse student population with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to attain affordable baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, and certificates and to reach their personal and professional goals. Through challenging academics and rich collegiate experiences, we promote lifelong learning, active leadership, and positive contributions in Northwest Georgia and beyond.

VISION STATEMENT

Dalton State College will be recognized as a first-choice destination college dedicated to the transformative power of education. By challenging all students to reach their full potential, we will nurture, inspire, and empower a diverse community of scholars in an accessible, learning-centered, and service-oriented environment. As an exceptional place to learn, work, and teach, Dalton State College will cultivate leaders who proudly serve and improve our community and our world.

Dalton State College has conditional approval with the Georgia Board of Nursing (237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217-3858; Telephone number 478-207-1300).

Dalton State College Associate Degree Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) (3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; Telephone number 404-975-5000).

Dalton State College Bachelor's Degree Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) (3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; Telephone number 404-975-5000).

Dalton State College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501).

A Unit of the University System of Georgia
An Affirmative Action Institution
The faculty of the Department of Nursing congratulate you on meeting the requirements for admission to the Bachelor's Degree Nursing (RN-BSN) program at Dalton State College. We welcome you and sincerely hope you will progress through this program successfully and will meet the requirements for graduation.

This handbook has been designed to provide you with helpful information you will need throughout this nursing program. It is intended to supplement the Dalton State College Catalog & Student Handbook. Students must abide by and are held to the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the college catalog. We expect that you will become familiar with all college and school of nursing policies and that you will follow them explicitly. You must sign a statement indicating your agreement to follow all school of nursing policies and the Department of Nursing Honor Code, an Authorization for Release of Records and Information, and an Educational Training Program Agreement. Your signed statements will be retained in a file along with your health physical form, CPR certification, liability insurance, and advisement information. This file will be maintained in the nursing office while you are in the nursing program.

This handbook is provided to assist you as you progress through the Dalton State College Bachelor's Degree Nursing program. Nursing policies are set forth by the entire nursing faculty. The faculty reserves the right to make revisions or additions as needed. You will be informed of all changes in a timely manner.

RN-BSN Faculty
43-26-11. Denial or Revocation of Licenses; Other Discipline

In addition to the authority granted in Code Section 43-1-19, the board shall have the authority to refuse to grant a license to an applicant, to revoke the license of a licensee, or to discipline a licensee upon a finding by the board that the applicant or licensee has:

1. Been convicted of any felony, crime involving moral turpitude, or crime violating a federal or state law relating to controlled substances or dangerous drugs in the courts of this state, any other state, territory, or country, or in the courts of the United States, including but not limited to a plea of nolo contendere entered to the charge; or

2. Displayed an inability to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or licensed undergraduate nurse with reasonable skill and safety due to illness, use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type or material, as a result of any mental or physical condition.

In enforcement of this paragraph, the board may, upon reasonable grounds, require a licensee or applicant to submit to a mental or physical examination by a board approved health care professional. The results of such examination shall be admissible in any hearing before the board, notwithstanding any claim of privilege under a contrary law or rule. Every person who is licensed to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse or licensed undergraduate nurse in this state or who shall file an application shall be deemed to have given such person’s consent to submit to such mental or physical examination and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the results in any communication. If a licensee or applicant fails to submit to such an examination when properly directed to do so by the board, unless such failure was due to circumstances beyond that person’s control the board may enter a final order upon proper notice, hearing, and proof of such refusal. Any licensee or applicant who is prohibited from practicing under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the board that such person can resume or begin to practice with reasonable skill and safety nursing as a registered professional nurse or licensed undergraduate nurse.

In enforcement of this paragraph the board may, upon reasonable grounds, obtain any and all records relating to the mental or physical condition of a licensee or applicant, including psychiatric records; and such records shall be admissible in any hearing before the board, notwithstanding any privilege under a contrary rule of law or statute. Every person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or licensed undergraduate nurse in this state or who shall file an application shall be deemed to have given such person’s consent to the board’s obtaining any such record and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of such records in any hearing before the board upon the grounds that the same constitute a privileged communication.

## DALTON STATE COLLEGE
### DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

### Performance Standards for Admission and Progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Examples of Necessary Activities (Not All Inclusive)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.</td>
<td>Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; develop concept maps; use the nursing process, problem solve and prioritize care; calculate medication dosages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communication/interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds in verbal, nonverbal, and written form.</td>
<td>Establish rapport with patients/clients, families, and colleagues; explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching and obtain information; document and interpret nursing actions, patient/client responses, and written/oral reports to other health care providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families and groups from various social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.</td>
<td>Establish rapport with patients/clients, families, and colleagues; handle conflict; respect cultural diversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Physical abilities sufficient for movement from room to room and in small spaces and extended distances.</td>
<td>Move around in a patient’s room, work spaces and treatment areas freely; perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation; sit, stand, and maintain balance for long periods; twist, bend and stoop; move quickly in response to emergencies; push, pull, and lift to support (a minimum of 50 lbs.) a dependent adult patient; squeeze with hands and fingers; and perform repetitive movements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Skills</td>
<td>Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care.</td>
<td>Calibrate and use equipment; position dependent adult client/patients, grasp and manipulate small objects/instruments; administer medications by any route.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(over)
### Examples of Necessary Activities (Not All Inclusive)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>Auditory ability sufficient for monitoring and assessing health needs.</td>
<td>Hear monitor and pump alarms; listen to heart and breath sounds; hear and understand auditory responses of clients/patients; hear cries for help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care.</td>
<td>Observe physiological changes in clients/patients condition, such as respiratory rate and depth, skin color; visualize monitors, watches with second hands, medication labels and vials, increments on a medication syringe; use depth perception, color distinction, and peripheral vision; read written documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tactile</td>
<td>Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.</td>
<td>Perform palpation to detect pulses and temperature; perform other functions of physical examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>Emotional health, adaptability, flexibility and physical tolerance sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.</td>
<td>Establish therapeutic interpersonal boundaries; provide patients/clients with emotional support, adapt to changing conditions in the work environment and stressful situations; deal with unexpected or unpredictable events; maintain focus, perform multiple tasks concurrently, and interact appropriately with others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adapted from Southern Regional Educational Board.**

**Adopted May 2017**

I have read and understand that I must be capable of the above standards to be enrolled as a student in the Bachelor’s Degree Nursing program.

Signature ___________________________ Date _______________
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLICIES (All policies are reviewed annually). ............................................. 1-13
  Academic Standards. .............................................................................. 1-2
  Grades. ................................................................................................. 1
  Progression Requirements. ............................................................... 1
  Academic Regulations. ................................................................. 2

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation......................................................... 3

Complaints/Grievances................................................................. 4

Confidentiality..................................................................................... 5

Health Requirements........................................................................ 6

Honor System..................................................................................... 7

Liability Insurance............................................................................ 8

Licensure............................................................................................ 9

Occurrences in Clinical Area.......................................................... 10

Professional Accountability......................................................... 11

Substance Abuse............................................................................. 12

Uniforms.......................................................................................... 13

PROGRAM OUTCOMES...................................................................... 14

MISSION STATEMENT ...................................................................... 15-17

PHILOSOPHY...................................................................................... 18

CURRICULUM ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN....................................... 19-22
POLICY I: ACADEMIC STANDARDS

I. ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. All students must complete each course in the RN-BSN program with a grade of C or higher. In order to pass each course, the student must:
   a. Achieve a minimum 75% average on all tests, exams and required papers/projects.
   b. Achieve a passing grade in all clinical/laboratory assignments.

2. Grading Scale

   A  90 - 100
   B  80 -  89
   C  75 -  79
   D  65 -  74
   F  Below 65

   Guidelines for the calculation of final grades for each course are included in the course syllabi.

II. PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students shall earn a minimum grade of “C” in all nursing courses, a passing grade in all core courses. All students, including transfer students are expected to meet the standards for progression in the ASN program related to core courses.

2. Students may repeat one nursing course. Failure to pass on the second attempt constitutes dismissal from the program.

3. BSN-RN students must complete Nursing 4100 - Senior Capstone during the last semester of the program. All core courses must be completed before or during the semester in which Nursing 4100 is taken.

4. Students must meet requirements set by the College related to application for graduation, payment of fees, etc.
III. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

1. All assignments completed in the RN-BSN program shall represent the student’s own work. PLAGIARISM IS PROHIBITED. Students are expected to give full credit to others’ ideas included in a paper using correct APA citation format. Citation of the work of others is expected if that idea is included in a paper, simply changing two or three words is not acceptable. It goes without saying that turning in papers copied in part of wholly from electronic sources is forbidden.

2. Any evidence of plagiarism constitutes failure for that assignment and may lead to dismissal from the program.

3. Cell phone use in the classroom is prohibited. Because some RN students may be on call, phones may be set on “vibrate” and students will excuse themselves from class and go into the hall to take the call.

4. Student are expected to attend all face-to-face classes. Policies related to attendance will be included in each course syllabus.

5. Students are expected to regularly check DSC internet sites and nursing course sites for information.

6. Students should be aware that information shared on line is accessible to anyone and therefore no information submitted electronically should include patient’s names, or any other identifying material. Students should not “friend” patients/clients on social media. Students should refrain from posting any information on line that is considered inflammatory, inappropriate, sexually explicit, vulgar, racially/culturally insensitive or just “plain stupid”.

7. RN students are expected to be tolerant, open-minded, and honest. Integrity and high ethical standards are expected. Students are expected to maintain the Department of Nursing Honor Code and any other codes/guidelines set by the College.

8. During the discourse of any subject, there may be opposite viewpoints. Students are expected to disagree “agreeably” and to respect the opinion of others. Students should feel free to disagree with the instructor and/or peers, however, students will be encouraged to seek compromise, accept more than one truth, be critical thinkers, and honor diversity of ideas. Providing health care to all individuals frequently includes dealing with very sensitive personal matters and values. Students will be expected to explore values in light of providing patient-centered care rather than nurse-centered or institution-centered care.
POLICY II: CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

When applying for admission to the RN-BSN, students shall submit certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Current certification shall be maintained throughout the student’s enrollment in the RN-BSN program. Retained in each student’s file.

The CPR class required is one of the following:

1) BLS American Heart Association Health Care Provider
POLICY III: COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

Records of all written or formal complaints about the program that proceed through the appropriate channels are maintained in the Department of Nursing Office for five years. The initial course of action should be to settle the dispute/grievance with the course instructor and coordinator. If resolution is not attained, discussion may occur with the Bachelor’s Degree Department Chair of Nursing and then, if necessary, can proceed through the appropriate appellate procedure as outlined in the college catalog.
POLICY IV: CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is the protection of the patient’s privacy in written and oral communication. The “International Code for Nurses” and the American Nurse’s Association “Code for Nurses” require that the nurse respect the patient’s right to privacy by using professional judgement in revealing confidential information to other persons.

Students in the Dalton State College RN-BSN program are expected to maintain patient confidentiality in all clinical settings. In the interest of privacy and confidentiality, discussion of patients should not be conducted in areas where others may overhear. Written material concerning patients must not contain identifying information. Recording devices and cameras are strictly prohibited in the clinical area.

The patient’s problems and conditions should be discussed only with those who need such information in order to improve his/her care.

Students should refrain from discussing operations of the clinical facilities in which they care for patients outside the clinical setting.

Students are expected to abide by all HIPAA guidelines.
POLICY V: HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Any time there is a questionable ability to perform physically, mentally, or emotionally, further examination is required. A FCE (functional capacity exam) by an IME (independent medical examiner) is required or a psychiatric exam if appropriate.

The following documents must be completed and retained in the student’s files while enrolled in the nursing program:

1. Physical Examination (annually):
   Students enrolled in the RN-BSN program at Dalton State College must have an annual physical examination completed either by a physician, licensed family nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant (countersigned by a physician). A copy of your work physical will be acceptable. The physical form will be due at the beginning of your cohort.

2. Tuberculin Skin Test (annually):
   A chest x-ray will be required ONLY with a positive TB skin test. EXCEPTION - documentation of previous POSITIVE TB skin.
POLICY VI: HONOR SYSTEM

Honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards are essential in the education of students, and more importantly, in the development of professional nurses. The validity and equity of student grades are a benchmark that reflects the quality of student performance in the program and college. In order to protect the high standards of an education at Dalton State College, it is imperative that each student be committed to upholding the standards promoted by the institution. This also includes a student’s responsibility to report violations in the Bachelor's Degree Department of Nursing’s Honor System.

Violations of the Honor System include cheating on exams, committing plagiarism, submitting another student’s work as one’s own, or obtaining unauthorized access to School of Nursing records. Violations of HIPAA regulations would also be considered a violation of the Honor System. Any violation of the Honor System would be grounds for failure of a course and possible expulsion from the RN-BSN program.

Any violation of the program/student handbook that is also a direct violation of the Dalton State College Code of Conduct (see: https://www.daltonstate.edu/skins/userfiles/files/Dalton-State-College-Student-Code-of%20Conduct-Revised-6-2017.pdf) will be reported to the College conduct administrator. Therefore, in addition to sanctions imposed by the nursing program, students may also face formal charges and/or sanctions from the College.

HONOR CODE

As a member of the Dalton State College Bachelor’s Degree Department of Nursing community, I am bound by honor to develop and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty, integrity, and ethical practice in the performance of my role as a nursing student. To fulfill this mission, I shall strive for full intellectual and moral development and to accept my personal and academic responsibilities. On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do.

__________________________
Signature

__________________________
Date
POLICY VII: LIABILITY INSURANCE

Students enrolled in the RN BSN program at Dalton State College are required to purchase Professional and Personal Liability Insurance annually through NSO or GNA. Students shall submit proof of insurance before beginning clinical. A photocopy shall be retained in each student’s file.
POLICY VIII: LICENSURE

When applying to the RN-BSN program, students shall submit a copy of their current nursing license. Current licensure shall be maintained throughout the student’s enrollment in the nursing sequence. A photocopy shall be retained in each student’s file.
POLICY IX: OCCURRENCES IN CLINICAL AREA

Procedure for Student Injuries Acquired in Clinical

1. The student will notify the instructor/preceptor immediately of the injury and the instructor will institute appropriate action.

2. The instructor/preceptor will notify the clinical manager and initiate an occurrence report.

3. The instructor/preceptor will provide the student with treatment options (hospital protocol).

4. The student will make a treatment decision. If the student cannot make a treatment decision, an attempt will be made to reach the student's family. In an emergency situation, and if family cannot be reached, the instructor/preceptor will make a treatment choice based upon his/her professional judgement.

5. If hospital or organization protocol is refused, the student must sign a waiver.

6. The student is responsible for all costs incurred.
POLICY X: PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

By the end of each course in the nursing sequence, the student will be functioning satisfactorily, or demonstrating satisfactory progress toward the development of the following behaviors that are considered essential in the safe and effective practice of nursing.

The student will:

1. comply with the safety policy.
2. comply with the attendance policy.
3. comply with the uniform policy.
4. recognize abilities and limitations.
5. accept and profit from constructive criticism and suggestions.
6. use time and resources purposefully.
7. contribute to the clinical conferences.
8. cope with own anxiety, or seek appropriate help.
9. establish and maintain rapport with health team members.
10. utilize appropriate channels of communication.
11. speak professionally about professors, clinical instructors, and hospital staff.
12. refrain from "friending" faculty and clinical instructors on social media sites until after graduation from the program.
POLICY XI: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Any nursing student who demonstrates behavioral changes suspected to be related to the use of drugs, including but not limited to alcohol, will be subjected to testing. The nursing faculty member’s decision to drug test will be drawn from those facts in light of the experience of the observers and may be based on:

- observable phenomena such as direct observation of drug use and or physical symptoms or manifestations of being under the influence of a drug
- erratic behavior, slurred speech, staggered gait, flushed face, dilated/pinpoint pupils, wide mood swings, and deterioration of work performance
- information that a student has caused or contributed to an accident that resulted in injury requiring treatment by a licensed health care professional
- conviction by a court, or being found guilty of a drug, alcohol or controlled substance in another legitimate jurisdiction.

Testing at the student’s expense will be conducted using the following policy/procedure:

1. The faculty member will have another faculty member or staff RN to confirm the suspicious behavior.

2. The student will be asked to leave the area and go with a faculty member and a witness to discuss the situation in a location ensuring privacy and confidentiality. The discussion will be documented, and the decision to drug test will be made.

3. If warranted, the student will submit appropriate laboratory specimens in accordance with the Substance Abuse Policy and clinical agency policies, if appropriate.

4. The student will be suspended from all clinical activities until the case has been reviewed by the appropriate personnel or committees, as designated by the nursing program.

5. If the laboratory test is negative for substances classified in the Diagnostic and/or Clinical Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), the student will be allowed to return to class without penalty. Arrangement to make up missed work must be initiated by the student on the first day back to class or clinical (whichever comes first).

6. If any one laboratory test is positive for substances classified in the Diagnostic and/or Clinical Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), the decision may be any one of the following: warning, a learning agreement for behavioral change, referral for medical evaluation, or immediate suspension from the program.

7. Confidentiality will be maintained.

8. 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.
POLICY XII: UNIFORMS

1. Uniform requirements for clinical experiences in the RN-BSN program depend on the clinical setting for individual students. Students are expected to meet the uniform requirements of the institution in which they have clinical experience.

2. All students should wear a white lab coat/jacket and a name badge identifying them as BSN students at Dalton State College in the clinical area. Name tags should be purchased by the beginning of spring semester before beginning clinical.

3. If scrubs are the appropriate apparel, the scrubs should be ironed and clean. Scrubs should be solid colored with no novelty prints, such as logos prints, animals, flowers, etc. If students have clinical experience in a pediatric setting, prints will be appropriate if allowed by institution policies.

4. If street clothes are the appropriate dress in the clinical area, male and female students are expected to dress in a professional manner. The following apparel is NEVER APPROPRIATE for the clinical area:
   a. jeans
   b. logo tee-shirts
   c. apparel which shows bare midriff, breast cleavage or which is shorter than knee length
   d. high heeled shoes
   e. mesh or trendy stockings, large earrings and excessive jewelry
   f. excessive scent
DEPARTMENT OF BACHELOR’S DEGREE NURSING

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

1. To provide accessibility and seamless progression for ADN-RNs to obtain a Bachelor’s of Science Degree (BSN).

2. To prepare ADN-RNs for professional advancement through the BSN by expanding knowledge and skills in the following:
   • nursing judgements/clinical decision making utilizing nursing science and knowledge from other disciplines in the provision of safe, high quality care.
   • leadership in providing, managing and improving health care.
   • utilization and development of evidence-based practice and health care informatics.

3. To provide patient/client-centered care in collaboration with other health care providers and patients, families and communities locally, nationally and globally that fulfills human capacities.

4. To prepare graduates to pursue higher degrees in nursing.
MISSION STATEMENT

We the faculty of the Department of Bachelor’s Degree Nursing at Dalton State College believe that our mission is to prepare students for employment as safe, caring, beginning nurse generalists who will assist in meeting the health care needs and improving the overall quality of life within the region. Our mission corresponds with the four core commitments of the Dalton State College mission as found in the DS Catalog.

- selection, support, and development of a talented, caring faculty and staff dedicated to scholarship and creating an open, cooperative, technologically enhanced learning environment.
- excellence in a learning environment dedicated to serving a diverse student body, promoting high levels of student achievement, and providing a range of educational and student life opportunities and appropriate academic support services.
- public service through economic development, and cultural activities that address the needs and improve the quality of life of the region.
- continuous improvement in all aspects of its operations through the use of inclusive, participatory planning and meaningful assessment.

In fulfilling the first core commitment, the Department of Bachelor’s Degree Nursing employs full time faculty with at least 25% of the faculty being doctorally prepared. Many of the nursing faculty maintain additional certifications in a variety of specialty areas. A variety of learning activities are included in the RN-BSN program. All courses are delivered in a hybrid model of teaching and learning which includes face-to-face classes as well as online classes. Most courses are approximately 50% online. This form of teaching and learning is well suited for students who are employed full or part-time and who have families and other obligations.
The second core commitment is fulfilled through providing students with exceptional learning opportunities in a wide variety of health care related areas that serve diverse patient populations. Supporting, encouraging, and recognizing the abilities, values, cultural, and gender diversity of the student population are priorities in promoting the success of our graduates.

In fulfilling the third core commitment, a commitment to public service is demonstrated by collaborative efforts with other DSC faculty and staff, local hospitals, agencies and Departments. Faculty, staff and students frequently volunteer their knowledge and skills at local events or activities that seek to address health promotion, higher education, or support the mission of Dalton State College.

Every faculty and staff member of the Department of Bachelor’s Degree Nursing continually strives to ensure fulfillment of the fourth and final core commitment.

In order to meet the needs of our graduates and their employers as well as to ensure instruction is current and relevant to health care, data is collected from a variety of areas and evaluated to continually improve the quality of education and instruction. Each member of the nursing faculty serves on various college wide committees involved with planning and assessing the purpose and mission of the college.

In fulfilling the mission of the department and the college, we seek to inspire our students to be active members who continually grow in knowledge and skill through education and practice within the nursing profession. As we look to the future and our place in a competitive, global society, we seek to become more student-oriented and community-centered. Successful completion of the ASN graduate outcomes enable graduates to realize their career goals and function safely and effectively as beginning nurse generalists. Offering a dynamic, comprehensive and innovative RN-BSN program that will enable students to achieve advanced nursing knowledge that will enhance their professional skills to meet the future health care needs of the community.
MISSION STATEMENT
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
In accordance with the mission of Dalton State, the School of Health Professions promotes wellness and prepares students to be competent, ethical, professional, and compassionate health care and social work practitioners in their fields. This is accomplished by providing students with contemporary, diverse, and relevant classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences in a dynamic environment.
PHILOSOPHY

The faculty believe that five core values influence and are basic to the practice of nursing. These values are caring, communication/collaboration, professionalism, competence/safety and evidenced based practice. These values, included in the NLN Education Competencies Model and IOM competencies for all health care professionals, provide the base for a curriculum designed to prepare ASN and RN-BSN graduates to practice successfully in a dynamic, constantly changing health care system.

The faculty believe that registered nurses use skills, knowledge and attitudes to provide high quality, safe nursing care which enhances human flourishing, is patient/client centered and incorporates theory, research, informatics, and evidence based practice. Working in interdisciplinary teams, registered nurses provide competent, compassionate care reflecting critical thinking and sound nursing judgment. Further, the practice of nursing incorporates a value system that is ethical, civil, and respectful of individual integrity and differences.

The faculty also believe that nursing education is a continuous process that provides opportunities for educational advancement as well as clinical expertise. Thus, the Department of Nursing offers entry into the ASN program and a seamless continuation into the BSN degree program for registered nurses.

References


CURRICULUM ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN

The RN-BSN program of study was designed to meet national standards national standards and criteria for accreditation including but not limited to Outcomes and Competencies for Graduates of …Baccalaureate Programs in Nursing (National League for Nursing, 2010), IOM competencies for health professions education (2003), and competencies identified by the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) project of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2006).

The National League for Nursing Competency document (2010) states that baccalaureate programs provide “students with foundation knowledge and skills needed for practice...which includes learning experiences related to community and population-focused care, leadership and management, and research” (p. 39). Specific competencies identified for BSN prepared nurses include:

- Human flourishing – using nursing skills and knowledge to help patients/clients fulfill human capabilities.

- Nursing judgment - basing clinical decisions on research evidence, nursing science and knowledge from other disciples.

- Professional identify – achieving personal integrity and making a commitment to using nursing science, caring, and advocacy in providing high quality, safe care and leadership in a variety of settings.

- Spirit of inquiry - using and critiquing research, identifying research problems and utilizing evidence-based practice.

The IM study identified six competencies necessary for all health care providers. These competencies are:

- providing patient-centered care

- working in interdisciplinary teams

- employing evidence-based practice

- applying quality improvement

- emphasizing safety

- using informatics
The QSEN project identifies specific knowledge, skill and attitudes needed to meet the six competencies identified by the I'M studies.

The program outcomes/purposes for the DSC RN-BSN program are as follows:

1. To provide accessibility and seamless progression for Associate Degree Registered Nurses (AD-RNs) to obtain the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

2. To prepare AD-RNs for professional advancement through the BSN by expanding knowledge and skill in the following areas:
   - nursing judgment/clinical decision making utilizing nursing science and knowledge from other disciplines in the provision of safe, quality care.
   - leadership in providing, managing, and improving health care.
   - utilization and development of evidenced-based practice and health care informatics.

3. To provide patient/client centered nursing care in collaboration with other health care providers to patients, families, and communities locally and nationally, that fulfills human capacities.

4. To prepare graduates to pursue higher degrees in nursing.

The learning outcomes of the RN-BSN are as follows:

The graduate of the RN-BSN program is expected to:

1. Provide nursing care which is patient/client centered and acknowledges patient choices, meets cultural/social/spiritual needs, encourages positive response to human conditions and reflects caring as an essential part of nursing excellence.

2. Utilize nursing theory, evidenced-based practice, nursing research, and accepted standards of care in providing high quality, safe nursing care to patients, families, groups, and communities.
3. Manage nursing care of individuals, groups, and communities utilizing management theories, health care informatics, quality assurance methods, and caring while applying continual quality improvement.

4. Apply principles of leadership to provide high quality nursing care emphasizing safety and evidenced-based practice.

5. Practice nursing in a manner that reflects individual integrity, responsibility, and accountability and meets moral, ethical, and legal standards.

6. Collaborate with patients/clients, families, and other health providers to provide coordinated patient centered care to all populations.

7. Communicate effectively with patients/clients, families, groups and other health care professionals emphasizing respect for individual differences and tolerance for diversity of opinion.

The RN-BSN program continues to build on the general education as well as nursing courses in the ASN program. The RN-BSN curriculum includes the completion of all core curriculum course requirements to provide a strong liberal arts/sciences base for baccalaureate education. Along with the nursing courses in the RN-BSN program, students have the opportunity to complete at least one upper division elective course related to their area of interest.

The first course in the RN-BSN program, Nursing 3000 - Health Assessment, is a comprehensive assessment course which includes both individual health/illness assessment as well as assessment of the health of communities and/or groups.

Nursing 3100, Perspectives on USA Health Care System, is an interdisciplinary course which includes nursing and others majors. This course explores issues related to the delivery of health care in the US from a broad economic, political, egalitarian, and consumer oriented point of view.
Nursing 4000, Evidenced Based Practice, focuses on reading, understanding, critiquing, and using research as a basis for identifying evidenced-based nursing practices (EBNP) and making patient-centered nursing care decisions. Students also explore nursing and related theories and consider how theory/practice/research are interrelated and form the foundation for EBNP and health care decision making.

Nursing 4100, Management and Leadership, Groups and Communities, reinforces basic elements of nursing management taught in the ASN program, and continues to explore building and maintaining collaborative practices with individuals, groups and communities. Basic principles of population-based health are introduced, and students have clinical experiences in managing care in a variety of care settings including acute care and community settings such as public health departments, school health, and nurse managed clinics.

Nursing 4200, Nursing Capstone, is a course designed to explore complex issues in the nursing profession such as professional image, educational requirements, advanced practice, and the critical role of nurses in health care delivery to all patients/clients needing health/illness care. In this course, students will complete a senior thesis project related to the objectives of the RN-BSN program.