



SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (RN-BSN) PROGRAM

University Profile

The University of Saint Francis was founded in 1890 and has a rich heritage of offering quality education. Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions of Faith and Reason, the University of Saint Francis engages a diverse community in learning, leadership and service. Personal attention to students is what makes a USF education so meaningful and enriching to its approximately 2,100 students. The campus has 108 acres of rolling lawns and trees with 19 buildings and four residence halls that surround beautiful Mirror Lake.

Department of Nursing Mission

Rooted in Franciscan values, the Nursing faculty prepare a diverse community of students for professional nursing, lifelong learning, service, and leadership.

Program Overview

The purpose of the baccalaureate program for registered nurses (RN-BSN program) is to prepare registered nurses for leadership roles in a variety of health care settings. The curriculum provides an academic background which serves as the basis for graduate education and continued personal and professional growth. The program builds from a liberal arts foundation, integrating nursing knowledge with the humanities, and behavioral and social sciences. Registered nurses who choose to complete the baccalaureate degree are prepared for career advancement in the clinical setting of their choice. Course content in research, leadership and management, and community health nursing introduce students to leadership and management roles and nursing positions in the community. Graduates are prepared to make an impact on the current and future health care of society.

Program Format

The RN-BSN Program is offered in a 20 month online format. All courses are offered in a web-based format via the Internet. Twelve credit hours are completed every 16 weeks. Two classes (six credit hours) are taken every eight weeks. Cohort groups start each fall and move through the curriculum together. The curriculum provides a flexible program of study, recognizing the registered nurse's previous knowledge and clinical expertise. Web based classes are NOT independent study or self-paced learning options; they do require students to attend class via the Internet regularly wherever they have access to a computer and the Internet. Online classes maintain the rigor and quality, as well as the interaction, participation and networking with peers of the traditional classroom setting.

Admission Requirements

RN-BSN applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be accepted into the program:

1. Meet university entrance requirements for transfer students.
2. Submit proof of a current, active RN license.
3. Have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale from a nationally accredited associate or diploma degree nursing program.

Once admitted to the nursing major, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7, and achieve a "B-" or better in all nursing courses and a "C" or better in all required non-nursing courses.

Credits earned at another regionally accredited institution will be considered for acceptance as transfer credit. Courses accepted for transfer will be applied toward the BSN degree requirements and must be of comparable content and length to University of Saint Francis courses. The

Registrar makes the decisions regarding determination for accepted transfer of credits.

To be awarded the Bachelor of Science Degree you must complete at least 32 credit hours of course work at University of Saint Francis, 16 of these credits must be from upper division nursing courses at USF.

Orientation and Initial Course Registration

In August, students will come to the University of Saint Francis campus in Fort Wayne for one day. During this on campus visit, students will register for classes and complete orientation requirements.

Online Courses at USF

Online courses use the Blackboard platform for course delivery.

Instructions for accessing Blackboard can be found at the university website at <http://www.sf.edu/sf/blackboard/student-faq/blackboard-access>

To take online courses at the University of Saint Francis, you will need:

1. A computer that is less than three years old with Windows XP or newer
2. Access to the Internet
3. Up to date virus protection program on your computer
4. No spyware on your computer
5. Windows software programs with the most current updates
6. An e-mail account. You will be assigned a University email account once you have registered for classes
7. Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator version 5.0 or newer
8. Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel and Power Point)

Faculty

Students will find highly skilled and respected nursing faculty who are dedicated to teaching and learning and provide personalized attention. On enrollment each student is assigned a nursing faculty advisor to assist the student in course planning and program completion.

Major Coursework

RNs receive 38 hours of nursing credit for their previous nursing education.

In addition, 30 hours of general education credits are required prior to starting the RN-BSN Curriculum. These courses include:

Human Anatomy and Physiology I
Human Anatomy and Physiology II
College Algebra
English Composition I
Religious Studies course
General Psychology
Sociology course
Pathophysiology
Human Growth and Development
Microbiology

Following is a list of general education and nursing courses required in the RN-BSN curriculum.

General Education Courses (36 credits):

Advanced Expository Writing
Introductory Statistics
English Literature directed course
Fundamentals of Public Communication
Theology directed course
History directed course
Philosophical Ethics Elective
History directed course
Social Responsibility/Leadership course
Society/Environment directed course
Physical Fitness
Elective (3 credits)

Nursing Courses (24 credits):

Professional Communication
Professional Nursing Concepts I
Professional Nursing Concepts II
Clinical: Applying Professional Nursing Concepts

Nursing Electives (9 credits)
Nursing Synthesis & Professional Role

Clinical Requirements

In order to participate in clinical experiences, clinical requirements as set by the Department of Nursing and clinical agencies must be met including, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug testing.

Students are required to obtain qualified RN preceptors for various clinical experiences. Students are responsible for submitting documentation of preceptor credentials and contact information to appropriate nursing faculty. Times and days for clinical hours are negotiated between the student and the clinical preceptor. Clinical experiences must be completed in the state in which the student is licensed.

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program is accredited by the Indiana State Board of Nursing and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Career Connections

The BSN degree offers students the educational mobility to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing degree. USF offers a Family Nurse Practitioner track.

Currently, students who obtain their BSN degree at USF are eligible to receive discounted tuition for the MSN program.

How do I apply for admission?

1. Request an application for admission from the Office of Admissions or apply online.
2. Submit the completed application to the Office of Admissions.
3. Have an official copy of your high school transcript showing class rank sent to the Admissions Office. Transcripts are considered official only when they are sent directly from

the school and have a school seal or signature of a school official.

4. If you did not finish high school, submit a copy of your GED test score results.
5. Submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. Transcripts are considered official only when they are sent directly from the institution and have the seal or signature of an official.
6. If you have been in military service, submit a copy of your DD214 military discharge form.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. More than 95 percent of undergraduate students receive financial assistance; most receive more than one type of aid. Early Estimator packages are available for dependent students during the fall at www.sf.edu/financialaid. All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority deadline is no later than March 10.

How do I find out more?

Call the Office of Admissions at 260-399-8000 or 800-729-4732, or visit our website at www.sf.edu.

