



***For more information contact:***

**Nursing Program**

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**Office of Admissions**

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[www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml)

**Electronic Application:**

[www.niu.edu/admissions/onlineapp.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/admissions/onlineapp.shtml)

**NIU Home Page:**

[www.niu.edu](http://www.niu.edu)



***Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Nursing***

***Degree Completion Opportunities for the Registered Nurse***

Northern's nursing program is designed to meet the needs of the registered nurse who wishes to complete a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing. The amount of time required for a registered nurse to fulfill the requirements of the baccalaureate degree completion program varies depending upon the amount of transfer credit.

The B.S. degree with a major in nursing, prepares the professional nurse for leadership roles in patient care in the total spectrum of health care agencies and settings. The graduates are prepared to function with baccalaureate competencies in the delivery of nursing care and in assisting in the improvement of health care delivery systems. They will also be skilled in utilizing the knowledge of the physical and social sciences as integral aspects of nursing, and in entering graduate programs that will further increase their nursing competencies and skills.

**Class Offerings**

Classes are offered part-time on a rotating schedule during evenings at several convenient locations or online:

- College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn
- Elgin Community College, Elgin
- Harper College, Palatine
- Kishwaukee College, Malta
- Rock Valley College, Rockford
- University Center/College of Lake County
- Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove
- NIU DeKalb
- NIU Naperville
- NIU Rockford

**Online Opportunities**

Some courses are offered online and can include occasional face-to-face class meetings, enhancing your relationship with instructors and peers. For more information, visit [www.niuonline.niu.edu](http://www.niuonline.niu.edu).

Online courses feature the following activities:

- Online lectures
- Chat sessions
- Online group projects

**Students enrolled in NIU's Nursing program enjoy many benefits:**

- Proficiency credit for recent education and previous learning experiences in the field of nursing
- Clinical experiences designed for RN students
- Access to the quality resources of an accredited institution
- Small class sections
- Part-time or Full-time enrollment

### **Admission**

**You must hold a current Illinois RN license and be prepared in the following ways:**

- Practiced as a Registered Nurse within the past five years or have satisfactorily completed an approved refresher course.
- Passed a certified proficiency exam if you graduated more than five years ago and have not practiced within the last two years.

**Apply by following these steps:**

- Submit your application, a copy of your current Illinois RN license and your official transcripts.
  - Apply to NIU at [www.niu.edu](http://www.niu.edu) or contact Undergraduate Admissions at [admissions@niu.edu](mailto:admissions@niu.edu) or (800)892-3050.
- You must have a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Complete Goal and Expectancy statement\*
- Submit two letters of recommendation on an approved form\*; one from a current nursing supervisor and the other from a faculty member or another supervisor.
- Meet with the nursing advisor to review your previous course work, discuss appropriate courses to meet your goals, and plan the details of completing your degree.

\*Admission forms are available from the nursing advisor or online at [http://www.niu.edu/nuhs/admission/nursing\\_rn.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/nuhs/admission/nursing_rn.shtml)

### **Academics**

- You must complete 120 semester hours with at least 40 hours in upper-division courses.  
*Up to 32 hours of credit for previous coursework is held in "escrow" and posted to your transcripts upon successful completion of 12 hours of nursing credit.*
- Maintain at least a 2.50 GPA.
- Complete **university general education** requirements.
- Complete **extra-departmental requirements**.
- Complete 24 semester hours of **nursing requirements**.
- You may transfer up to 66 semester hours of approved course work and four hours of physical education to help meet these requirements.
- You must also pass drug screening and criminal background checks prior to enrollment in clinical courses.

### **University General Education Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

A complete listing of general education courses and course descriptions can be found in the current *Undergraduate Catalog*.

- ENGL 103 and 104
- COMS 100 (speech)
- MATH 101 or 155 or 201 or 206 or 210 or 211 or 229
- Humanities – 9 semester hours
- Science – (may be met by nursing requirements)
- Social Science – 3 additional semester hours
- Interdisciplinary – 3 semester hours

**Transfer credit available from most community colleges or universities.**

### **Extra-Departmental Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

(23 semester hours of the extradepartmental requirements are applicable towards general education credit)

Transfer credit for courses available from most community colleges or universities

- ENGL 104, Rhetoric and Composition II (3)
- BIOS 104, General Biology with lab (4)<sup>2</sup>
- BIOS 213, Bacteriology with lab (3) **or**  
BIOS 313, Microbiology (4)
- BIOS 357, Anatomy and Physiology with lab (5)
- CHEM 110, Chemistry (3) and CHEM 111, Chemistry Lab (1) **or**  
CHEM 210T, General Chemistry (3) and CHEM 212, General Chemistry Lab (1)
- Lifespan development course<sup>3</sup>
- Basic nutrition<sup>3</sup> (2-4 semester hours)
- Basic statistics (2-4 semester hours)
- PSYC 102, Introduction to Psychology (3)

<sup>1</sup>See undergraduate catalog for specific course and residency requirements.

<sup>2</sup>See adviser – course waiver possible.

<sup>3</sup>Proficiency Testing Credit available at NIU.

***Nursing Requirements – 55-58 semester hours (Including 32 semester hours of “escrow” credit)*****A. Seven Nursing Theory Courses 19-20 semester hours****NURS 346: Concepts, Issues and Interpersonal Strategies in Professional Nursing (3)**

Characteristics and roles of the professional nurse based on historical, legal, and professional trends. Examination of social and political dimensions of professional practice. Development of therapeutic communication skills. Introduction to use of systems theory in the provision of culturally competent nursing care.

**OR**

**NURS 300: Professional Nursing (2)** Introduction to a systems approach to culturally competent nursing care within health care systems. Role of the professional nurse in using biopsychosocial concepts, principles, and processes in the enhancement of the health of diverse client systems.

**NURS 301: Research in Nursing (3)** Critical thinking skills and principles and methodology of the research process. Role of the culturally competent professional nurse as research consumer, critic, and participant.

**NURS 306: Health Assessment (2)** Theoretical bases for assessing the health status of culturally diverse individuals across the lifespan. Introduction to the role of the professional nurse in identifying and communicating normal findings and common deviations from normal.

**NURS 306A: Health Assessment Learning Laboratory (1)** Development and application of the cognitive and psychomotor skills necessary to perform a systematic, holistic, and culturally competent health assessment for individuals across the lifespan.

**NURS 309: Alterations in Biological Systems (3)** Theoretical bases of alterations in physiological processes that impair health in culturally diverse individuals. Introduction to the role of the professional nurse in using culturally competent intervention strategies in the enhancement of physical health.

**NURS 401: Processes for Nursing Leadership (2)** Theoretical bases of the processes used to provide leadership in managing care for culturally diverse individuals, families, and groups across the lifespan in diverse settings. Roles of the culturally competent professional nurse in planning, organizing, directing, and controlling resources for health care.

**NURS 424: Community Health Nursing (3)** Theories and principles of community health nursing. Role of the professional nurse in the enhancement of the health of aggregates or populations. Emphasis on collaboration with the multidisciplinary team and diverse populations.

**NURS 487: Nursing, Ethics, and the Law (3)** Legal and ethical aspects of professional issues and problems in health fields relating to nursing and society. To transition to the role of professional nurse.

**B. Clinical Course(s) 4-6 semester hours**

**NURS 460: Clinical Development: Leadership/Management in Aggregate-Focused Nursing Care (4)** Theories and principles of community health nursing. Role of the professional nurse in the enhancement of the health of aggregates or populations. Emphasis on collaboration with the multidisciplinary team and diverse populations.

**OR**

**NURS 420:** Clinical Development VII /Community Health (2) and **NURS 430:** Clinical Development VIII/Leadership (4)

- C. Thirty-two semester hours of “escrow” credit** will be **awarded** upon successful completion of 12 semester hours of nursing credit. Courses for which requirements can be met through “escrow” credit/proficiency testing: NURS 310A: Clinical Development I, NURS 310: Nursing Fundamentals, NURS 311: Mental Health Nursing, NURS 316: Adult Health Nursing, NURS 317: Adult Health Nursing II, NURS 320: Clinical Development II, NURS 321: Parent-Child Nursing, NURS 322: Child Health Nursing, NURS 330: Clinical Development III, NURS 340: Clinical Development IV, NURS 360: Clinical Development V, NURS 410: Clinical Development VI, NURS 436: Pharmacology.

***General Electives***

The Bachelor of Science degree requires a total of 120 semester hours. Elective hours may be needed to meet this requirement.

