

Undergraduate Program Course Descriptions

Students have the opportunity to enroll on an elective basis in the full range of courses and academic disciplines offered at Rockhurst University. Course descriptions for Rockhurst University courses may be found in the Rockhurst University 2010-2012 Catalog and at <http://www.rockhurst.edu/registrar/catalog/index.asp>

The following section provides course descriptions for all nursing courses specifically required in the Research/Rockhurst Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

Outstanding students who are invited to participate in the Rockhurst University Honors Program take a specially designed curriculum which substitutes for courses normally required. Descriptions of this program and honors courses may be found in the Rockhurst University Catalog. More information may be obtained from the Director of the Honors Program.

Undergraduate courses are numbered from 1000 to 4990. Courses numbered from 1000 through 1990 are intended primarily for students in their first year of post-secondary study. Courses numbered from 2000 to 2990 are intended primarily for sophomore students. Courses numbered from 3000 to 3990 are intended primarily for junior students. Courses numbered from 4000 to 4990 are intended primarily for senior students. Nursing course numbers ending in 0 are for the traditional option and those ending in 1 are for the accelerated option.

The number in parentheses following the course number and title indicates the semester credit hours for that course.

Nursing Courses

NU 2030/2031. Foundations of Nursing Practice (3)

This course focuses on foundational concepts and nursing skills essential for the practice of professional nursing. Learning experiences occur in the classroom and college laboratory. Prerequisites: BL 2929, BL 2930/2931, BL 2940/2941 (or BL 2965); and MT 1190 for Traditional Option.

NU 2050/2051. Nursing Health Assessment (2)

In this course, students learn to assess adult client health status. The emphasis is on normal assessment findings and recognition of deviations from normal. Learning experiences occur in the classroom and college laboratory. Prerequisites: BL 2929, BL 2930/2931, BL 2940/2941 (or BL 2965); and PY 1000.

NU 2750. Normal Nutrition (2)

This course focuses on principles of nutrition which promote health and normal growth across the lifespan. Nutritional practices which enhance health are explored. Factors which affect food habits and nutritional practices are examined. Common nutritional problems are discussed. The student is introduced to methods to assess nutritional status across the lifespan.

NU 2850/2851. Pathophysiology (3)

This course focuses on alterations in biologic processes that affect the body's internal homeostasis. A conceptual approach will be used to emphasize general principles of pathophysiology. The etiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and sequelae of various alterations of human structure and function will be examined. Knowledge from the basic and clinical sciences will be integrated. Prerequisites: CH 1050/1060; BL 2929, BL 2930/2931; 2940/2941 (or BL 2965).

NU 3100/3101. Professional Concepts (3)

This course focuses on professional concepts and values central to nursing. Selected topics will be examined to promote the student's professional development. All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211.

NU 3200/3201. Adult Health Nursing I (3)

The primary focus of this course is the nursing management of adult health. Strategies for disease management and health promotion are addressed in the care of adult clients with fluid and electrolyte, cardiovascular, endocrine, musculoskeletal, and sensory-perceptual alterations. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3210/3211. Adult Health Nursing Practice I (3)

The focus of this course is the clinical application of nursing concepts, skills, and health assessment techniques. Students utilize the nursing process while caring for adult clients on medical-surgical acute care units. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3220/3221. Older Adult Health (2)

This course focuses on the concepts of healthy aging and the maintenance of functional capacity in the later years. Content addresses common physiological, psychological and social changes, challenges, and adaptations of older people. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3230/3231, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3230/3231. Older Adult Health Practice (1)

This course focuses on the clinical application of nursing care concepts in the maintenance of functional capacity and quality of life for older adults. Students utilize the nursing process while partnering with older adults living in the community in a variety of settings. These may include independent living sites, Shepherd's Centers, AARP groups, HCA Health to You groups, assisted living facilities, and church groups. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3220/3221, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3430/3431. Adult Health Nursing II (4)

The primary focus of this course is the nursing management of adult health. Strategies for disease management and health promotion are addressed in the care of adult clients with integumentary, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, neurological, immune, autoimmune, pulmonary and hematological alterations. Prerequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551; Corequisite: NU 3440/3441.

NU 3440/3441. Adult Health Nursing Practice II (4)

The focus of this course is the clinical application of nursing concepts, skills and health assessment techniques. Students utilize the nursing process while caring for adult clients on complex medical-surgical units including critical care settings. Prerequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551; Pre or Corequisite: NU 3430/3431.

NU 3510/3511. Mental Health Nursing (2)

The primary focus of this course is the nursing management of selected mental health issues across the lifespan. Disease management and health promotion provide the framework for the study of mental health. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisite: NU 3100/3101, NU 3530/3531, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3530/3531. Mental Health Nursing Practice (1)

The focus of this course is the clinical application of nursing concepts, mental health assessment, and interpersonal skills in psychiatric nursing process in the care of patients with mental health alterations in acute care and selected community settings. Prerequisites: All NU 2000 courses, PY 3400, CT 2000, BL 3100/3101, Pre or Corequisite: NU 3100/3101, NU 3510/3511, NU 3550/3551.

NU 3550/3551. Pharmacology (2)

This course is designed to provide foundational knowledge and understanding of pharmacological therapy. The content is organized according to the following classifications: infectious agents, autonomic nervous

system, cardiovascular, hematological, respiratory, pain, gastrointestinal, neurologic and neuromuscular, anti-inflammatory, endocrine, psychogenic, and visual, auditory and integument. Emphasis is placed on nursing implications and responsibilities in pharmacological therapy. Prerequisite: All NU 2000 level courses, BL 3100/31001

NU 3570/3571. Introduction To Nursing Research (2)

The focus of this course is the research process and its application to nursing. Learning activities provide the student with the opportunity to develop skills needed to become a competent consumer of research. Emphasis is placed on the role of evidence-based practice as the basis for clinical decision making. Prerequisite: All NU 2000 level courses.

NU 3730/3731. Maternal – Newborn Nursing (3)

The primary focus of this course is the nursing management of maternal and newborn health. Strategies for disease management and health promotion are addressed. Selected issues related to the study of families, genetics, reproductive and women's health care also included. Prerequisites: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU3210/3211, NU3550/3551, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3750/3751, NU 3770/3771.

NU 3750/3751. Child Health Nursing (3)

The primary focus of this course is the nursing management of the health of children, adolescents, and their families. Strategies for disease management and health promotion are addressed throughout the course. Prerequisite: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551, Pre or Corequisite: NU 3730/3731, NU 3770/3771.

NU 3770/3771. Maternal – Child and Family Nursing Practice (3)

The focus of this course is the clinical application of nursing concepts, skills, and health assessment techniques to children, maternal-newborn clients and their families. Students utilize the nursing process while caring for clients in selected pediatric and obstetrical acute care and community-based settings. Prerequisite: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3730/3731, NU 3750/3751.

NU 3790/3791. Professional Development Strategies (1)

This course focuses on the strategies for successful entrance into the profession. Topics such as nursing resume preparation, interview techniques, portfolio development and tactics for success on NCLEX are included. Prerequisite: NU 3100/3101, NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3550/3551, Pre or Corequisites: NU 3730/3731, NU 3750/3751.

NU 4100/4101. Leadership and Professional Issues (3)

This course focuses on leadership and management concepts as they relate to the professional nursing role and the delivery of health care. Theories and evidence-based practice supporting delivery of health care are examined. Topics such as resource management, risk management and quality improvement strategies are included. The economic and ethical impact of health care costs, market trends, and cost effective quality care are analyzed. Prerequisite: All NU 3000 courses, Pre or Corequisites: NU 4210/4211, NU 4230/4231, NU 4400/4401.

NU 4210/4211. Community Health Nursing (3)

This course focuses on public health concepts and the nursing leadership role for the management of health of communities and global society. Factors that impact the community as client are analyzed. Frameworks for planning health education programs focus on health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention. To facilitate the management of health in communities, selected areas of study may include community assessment, epidemiology, environment, vulnerable populations, disaster management and global health. Prerequisite: All NU 3000 courses, Pre or Corequisite: NU 4100/4101, NU 4230/4231, NU 4400/4401.

NU 4230/4231. Community Health Nursing Practice (2)

This clinical practicum provides the opportunity for students to incorporate leadership skills and community concepts in a variety of community settings. The focus is on health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention programs with selected at risk populations. Activities may include assisting community agencies and organizations to plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion programs. Prerequisite: All NU 3000 courses, Pre or Corequisites: NU 4100/4101, NU 4210/4211, NU 4400/4401.

NU 4400/4401. Capstone: Leadership in Professional Nursing Practice (5)

This clinical practicum provides the opportunity to synthesize knowledge and skills from previous or current nursing courses through a focused clinical experience. This course culminates with leadership role acquisition relevant to the clinical site. The course provides for autonomous and collaborative functioning, which includes synthesis and integration of knowledge, skills, and attitudes requisite to professional nursing practice. Prerequisite: All NU 3000 courses, Pre or Corequisite: NU 4100/4101, NU 4210/4211, NU 4230/4231.

NU 4990. Independent Study in Nursing (1-3)

Guided study or research on some aspect of nursing. Prerequisite: Associate Dean and Instructor approval.

Nursing Electives

Nursing electives afford the student the opportunity to pursue an area of interest to develop knowledge and skills beyond the core content of the curriculum. The variety of course offerings or faculty-guided independent study in a given term is subject to availability of faculty and institutional resources. Selected courses in the College of Arts and Sciences are identified and may be used to meet the nursing elective requirement.

NU 3625. Nursing Management of Patients with Dysrhythmias (2)

This course will focus on nursing care of patients experiencing dysrhythmias. Interpretation of dysrhythmias originating in the SA node, AV node, AV bundle, and ventricle will provide the foundation for a systematic discussion of related nursing care. Pharmacological interventions, as well as electrophysiological interventions, for common dysrhythmias will be addressed. Application of the nursing process to the care of patients experiencing dysrhythmias secondary to conduction defects, acute coronary syndrome (ACS), and congestive heart failure (CHF) will be emphasized. Pre- and post-operative care of the patient undergoing pacemaker placement, including interpretation of paced cardiac rhythms, will also be included. Review and appraisal of current evidence-based guidelines for nursing management of cardiac dysrhythmias, such as those developed by the American Heart Association (AHA), will be incorporated throughout the course. Prerequisite: NU 3200/3201, NU 3210/3211, NU 3430/3431, NU 3440/3441.

NU 3640. Addictive/Compulsive Behavior and Nursing (2)

This course is designed to explore different theories as they apply to various addictive and compulsive behaviors and disorders. Topics could include, but are not limited to, alcoholism, problem drinking, eating disorders, obsessive/compulsive disorder, gambling, smoking, "addictive" relationships, cults, chemical abuse, and compulsive working, shopping, and sexual behavior. Particular attention will be given to the impaired nurse, characteristics of nurses, and nursing care in general. Family dynamics and broader issues related to societal impact will be addressed. Students must be prepared to discuss their informed opinions in their particular area of interest. Pre-requisite: All 2000 level nursing courses or instructor approval.

NU 3700. Family Nursing (2)

This course is designed to provide the student with a foundation in concepts, theories, and paradigms of family health care nursing across the life span and to explore the application of these ideas in a variety of health care settings. The student will have opportunities to learn and apply special skills relating to nursing process in working with families. Alternative family life styles and cultures will be addressed. Substantial student participation is required. Pre-requisite: All 2000 and 3200 level nursing courses, NU 3430/3431 and NU 3440/3441 or instructor approval.

NU 3780. Issues in Critical Care (2)

This course is designed to explore issues, concepts, tools, and technologies in critical care. Students will be expected to utilize the nursing process, concepts in pathophysiology, and current nursing research to facilitate case analysis. Pre-requisite: All 2000 level nursing courses or instructor approval; NU 3200/3201; NU 3210/3211.

NU 3785. Issues in Pediatric/Neonatal Critical Care Nursing (2)

This course is designed to explore issues, concepts, tools, and technologies in critical care of the neonate and pediatric client. Students will be expected to utilize the nursing process, concepts in pathophysiology, and current nursing research to facilitate case analysis. Pre-requisite: All 2000 level nursing courses; NU 3200/3201; NU 3210/3211.

NU 3800. Introduction to Statistics (3)

This course is designed for undergraduate students to become familiar with introductory key terms and concepts for elementary statistics. Students will become familiar with the nature of data, descriptive statistics, the use of inferential statistics in hypothesis testing, the types of inferential statistical tests, and commonly used correlational techniques. The course is offered in an online format.

NU 3820. Humor and Health (2)

In this course students examine the history, art and science of mirth and humor as well as its application to professional and personal life. The connections between humor and health will be explored. Prerequisites: 2000 level nursing courses and/or instructor approval.

NU 3852 Global Perspective in Public Health (3)

This course will allow students to examine global public health issues. Students will examine these issues using the public health methodology of epidemiology. Students will use the fundamental epidemiologic concept of interaction among agent, host, and environmental factors that influence the health and development of illnesses among peoples of the world, to guide their examination of these issues. (GPR)

NU 3880. History of Nursing (2)

This course is designed to examine the rich development of nursing as a discipline and profession, from a historical perspective. Past nursing issues will be identified and discussed. The social, philosophical, and political forces which have impacted the course of nursing history will be examined. Pre-requisite: All 2000 level nursing courses or instructor approval.

HP 3700. (Rockhurst) Global Perspectives on Disability (3)

This course will examine the position of personal with disabilities historically and in contemporary society around the globe. Topics to include how various cultures view disability, United Nations role in disability rights, Paralympics: an international vehicle for change and understanding the global disability community. (GPR)

PY 2100. (Rockhurst) Introduction to Statistics for Behavioral Sciences (3)

Basic concepts of statistical analysis are applied to empirical questions from psychology, social sciences and life science to foster the scientific perspective, to incite critical thinking, and to produce better consumers of information. This course focuses on basic descriptive concepts (e.g. central tendency, variability) and techniques (e.g. correlation, regression), basic issues in hypothesis testing (e.g. probability, decision, errors) and basic parametric techniques (e.g. z-test, t-test, one- and two-factor ANOVAs).

PY 3600 . (Rockhurst) Psychology of Sexual Behavior (3)

A psychological perspective on human sexuality and patterns of behavior. Sexual functioning, gender identity, sexual disorders and treatment are considered. The role of personality, attitudes and emotional factors are emphasized. Prerequisite: PY 1000. (SRI or SRII)

PY 3700. (Rockhurst) Health Psychology (3)

Health psychology is one of the most rapidly expanding areas in the field of psychology. This course will discuss the role psychological factors play in physical illness. The role of psychological treatments for individuals with psychophysiological disorders will be discussed. This course will also address the role of the health psychologist in the health care system and topics such as chronic pain, obesity, nicotine addiction. Prerequisite: PY 1000.

SO 3670 (Rockhurst) Sociology of Death and Dying (3)

The focus of this course is the sociological analysis of death and dying, both in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. The course examines how the intensely personal experiences of dying, death and bereavement are shaped by society and culture. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. (SRII)

SP 3070 (Rockhurst) Medical Spanish II (3)

Continuation of SP 2070. This course introduces the student to the technical language of medicine: anatomy, illness, and treatment. It also prepares the student to conduct consultation and conversations in the Latino cultural context. Prerequisite: SP 2150 or approval of instructor. (GPR)

SP 4060 (SP 6070) (Rockhurst) Spanish for the Health Care Professional (3)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the ability to overcome cross-cultural barriers in a medical setting and to communicate effectively with speakers of Spanish. Background information on Hispanic cultures (e.g. customs, conceptions of the role of health care providers and courtesy) as well as some medical terminology will be provided. Issues raised by the difference in conceptions of the role of doctors, medicine and health care will be addressed. The graduate course SP 6070 requires independent accelerated additional work appropriate for master's level study. Prerequisite: SP 3100 or approval of the instructor.