College of Nursing

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Vision
MSU College of Nursing will be internationally recognized for innovation, discovery, excellence and leadership in education, research and practice.

Mission
Our mission is to enhance the health of the people of Montana, our nation, and the global community by providing leadership for professional nursing through excellence in education, research, practice and service.

Goals
1. To inspire baccalaureate and graduate students, within a diverse, challenging, and engaging learning environment, to become leaders in the practice of professional nursing.
2. To create an interactive environment in which faculty and students discover, learn, and integrate knowledge into nursing practice.
3. To serve as leaders in nursing by generating, translating, and disseminating knowledge through research and scholarly activities.
4. To promote health and wellness through professional practice, collaboration, consultation, civic engagement, education, and leadership.

Philosophy
Introduction
We believe in excellence in nursing education through a teaching-learning process that is the responsibility of both faculty and student. We promote the development of lifelong self-directed learning that fosters leadership in education, research, practice, and service. We believe in a learning environment that supports the diversity of people and ideas. Our efforts are directed toward achieving higher levels of education for all nurses and transforming healthcare in the United States and the world. We believe that nursing education is framed within the context of nursing’s meta-paradigm: person, environment, health, and nursing.

Person
A person is any individual, family, group, community or population. Each person is unique and is entitled to treatment with dignity and respect.

Environment
Environment includes all factors influencing a person’s health perceptions, behaviors, and responses. The human experience is contextually defined by the interrelationship of spiritual, cultural, developmental, physical, psycho-social, political, and economic subsystems. The appropriate arena for nursing action extends beyond the person and includes promotion of healthy environments through social action.

Health
Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being defined by the person. It is not merely the absence of disease or disability. Health is multifactorial and is influenced by many factors such as behaviors, environments, genetics, and resources. There are diverse cultural definitions of health. Health activities include those directed at maintenance, enhancement, prevention and promotion.
Admission to the Pre-Nursing Major

Enrollment in the pre-nursing major is available for students admitted to Montana State University-Bozeman provided they have met the University admission requirements (are not admitted on probation or into pre-university studies) and, if transferring from another institution, have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Montana State University students in another curriculum may process a change of curriculum through a competitive application process. Acceptance into the nursing major (placement on a specific upper division campus site) is based on the student's grades in the required prerequisite courses for the nursing major. Pre-nursing majors (at both Montana State University-Bozeman and transfer institutions) apply for admission to the nursing major with their advisor at least once each semester.

Admission to the Nursing Major

Admission to the College of Nursing as a nursing major is achieved through a competitive application process. Acceptance into the nursing major (placement on a specific upper division campus site) is based on the student's grades in the required prerequisite courses for the nursing major. Pre-nursing majors (at both Montana State University-Bozeman and transfer institutions) apply for admission to the nursing major during spring or fall one year before beginning upper division study (see Application for Nursing Major and Upper Division Placement). Admission to the nursing major permits students to be enrolled in sophomore, junior, and senior restricted entry nursing courses.

Progression through the Nursing Curriculum

Lower division courses, including pre-requisite nursing courses, must be completed prior to upper division courses. Nursing courses are generally offered every fall and spring semester. Some summer courses may be offered. Not all required non-nursing courses are offered every semester.

1. A calculated GPA of 3.0 or higher in required prerequisite courses is required to apply to the nursing program. Students are awarded placement based on their pre-requisite course work GPA. Selection moves from the highest GPA downward until all seats are filled. Historically, this has been a GPA of at least 3.5; this does vary with each applicant pool, however. Students should work closely with their advisor each semester to ensure readiness for application.

2. All required prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better (C- Grades are not acceptable) and no more than 2 of the required prerequisites courses may be repeated 1 time.

3. The College of Nursing considers a “W” grade on a transcript the same as C-, D, or F grade. “W” grades indicate an unsuccessful attempt to achieve a grade of C or better in a course.

4. Prerequisite courses for any nursing course must be completed with a grade of C or better (C- grades are not acceptable) before enrolling in the nursing course for which the prerequisite course is required.

5. Restricted entry lower division nursing courses are first offered to students in the nursing major. Students in the pre-nursing major, near the top of the wait list, may be enrolled pending availability.

6. A student's cumulative MSU GPA must be at least 3.0 prior to beginning upper division study.

7. Unsatisfactory grades in required clinical nursing course(s) in two different semesters prohibits continuation in the nursing curriculum.

8. Exceptions to any requirements or readmission to the nursing major after removal, withdrawal or failure from the nursing curriculum in which were documented extraordinary circumstances (e.g. death in family, personal illness requiring extended hospitalization, military orders, etc.) are dependent upon a successful appeal to the College of Nursing Scholastic Committee. Placement of students who have failed, have been removed, or have withdrawn from coursework is dependent upon space availability.

9. The lab portion of science courses must be Face to Face. We do not accept online lab science courses.

Application for Upper Division Placement in the Traditional Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) Program

The number of students admitted to the nursing major and offered placement on one of the upper division campus sites is regulated to provide the best utilization of financial, clinical, and faculty resources. The application procedure for admission to the nursing major has been developed in order to:

1. provide the most highly qualified students a place in upper division coursework (pending successful completion of required lower division courses).

2. achieve maximum utilization of limited resources

3. increase the supply of professional registered nurses.

Applications are submitted during two specified periods each year; January 2nd for spring upper division placement and August 1st for fall upper division placement. These periods are publicly announced six weeks in advance on the College of Nursing website. The first opportunity for students to submit an application will be August 1st or following spring semester of their freshman year as pre-nursing students (or depending on when the applicant will be ready to begin upper division). Submission of an application packet is required which includes: official transcripts from every college/university attended; a background check, urine drug screen, and immunizations by the application deadline.

At least 3 of the 5 required natural science courses must be completed with a grade of C or better, and one of those courses must be BIOH 201 (Human Anatomy and Physiology I) to apply to the nursing program. Those natural science pre-requisite courses are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Required Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 201</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 211</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOM 250</td>
<td>Microbiology for Health Sciences: Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application for Accelerated Bachelor of Science Option

Applicants will be selected for the BSN accelerated option based on a calculated grade point average of 3.0 or higher in required prerequisite courses for the accelerated option; evidence of completion of a bachelor’s degree in a discipline other than nursing from a regionally accredited institution with at least a cum GPA of 3.0 or higher; signature on affidavit for “Abilities Required for Success in the BSN degree program” form. Prospective students may have no more than 2 required prerequisite courses (and no more than 9 credits) remaining in the fall semester of their application. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better by the end of the fall semester that precedes the May start date in the program. Submission of an application packet is required which includes: official transcripts from every college/university attended; a background check, urine drug screen, and immunizations.

All required prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better (C- grades are not acceptable) and no more than 2 of the required prerequisite courses may be repeated 1 time.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 121IN</td>
<td>Introduction to General Chemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 123</td>
<td>Introduction to Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLS 101US</td>
<td>Knowledge and Community</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 221CS</td>
<td>Basic Human Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 101IS</td>
<td>Indiv and Fam Dev: Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYX 100IS</td>
<td>Intro to Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 101IS</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 216Q</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRIT 101W</td>
<td>College Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 121IN</td>
<td>Introduction to General Chemistry</td>
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Upper division placement is dependent upon the grade point average in required lower division courses; students are also asked to indicate the campus of their choice.

A wait list of students with 3.0 or higher grade point averages in required lower division courses will be maintained in order to fill unexpected openings for placement at upper division campus sites. Students with grade point averages lower than 3.0 are not eligible to be placed. Students wishing to be considered for admission in later semesters must reapply.

Students need to carefully plan a course of study with advisors in order to complete all required lower division courses prior to upper division placement. Students who have not completed required lower division courses forfeit their upper division placement.

Transfer Students to the Traditional BSN program study

The above criteria and procedures for progression through the nursing curriculum apply to transfer students as well as MSU-Bozeman students. Students who have been enrolled as nursing students at any other institution (have nursing courses on their transcripts) must provide a letter from their Dean or Director regarding their academic standing at their departure from that program.

In order to facilitate transcript evaluation, all transfer students must provide a copy of the original transcript(s) from all institutions of higher education they have attended to the College of Nursing Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator as well as to the MSU Admissions Office. Out-of-state transfer students must also provide a catalog or course descriptions from their former institution(s), if possible, to facilitate the course evaluation process. Course syllabi will be required if the course does not appear in the MSU transfer equivalency site.

Transfer students are strongly encouraged to work with a MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing Adviser well before application to the program of nursing.
The 2015 ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses, Provision 3.3 describes Performance Standards and Review Mechanisms for the professional nurse:

Inherent in professional nursing is a process of education and formation. That process involves the ongoing acquisition and development of the knowledge, skills, dispositions, practice experiences, commitment, relational maturity, and personal integrity essential for professional practice. Nurse educators, whether in academics or direct care settings, must ensure that basic competence and commitment to professional standards exist prior to entry into practice (American Nurses Association, 2015, pg 11).

The student, upon admission to the nursing curriculum, assumes the obligations of performing and behaving according to the standards set by the College of Nursing. Mere satisfactory academic performance does not in and of itself constitute the basis for progression through the nursing major.

In keeping with the standards of the profession, the College of Nursing expects nursing students to demonstrate ethical behavior. Expected behaviors include, but are not limited to, abiding by guidelines for academic integrity; respecting the privacy rights of patients, students, and faculty members; placing priority on the health, safety, and welfare of patients; and avoiding prejudicial or discriminatory behavior in relationships with patients, students, and faculty members.

Some examples of misconduct are sharing confidential information, fabrication or falsification of information in the classroom or clinical area, any form of cheating, including plagiarism, and aiding in or facilitating dishonesty or unethical behavior in others. Breaches in professional standards will result in disciplinary action, including the possibility of removal from the nursing curriculum. Students are responsible for reviewing the following publications which are available on each College of Nursing campus:

• Student Conduct & Instructional Guidelines & Grievances Procedures(MSU-Bozeman).
• The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2008).
• Code of Ethics for Nurses (ANA, 2015).

When a student fails to meet reasonable standards of performance or behavior or when a faculty member deems reasonable supervision is inadequate to ensure patient safety, the faculty member has the authority to remove a student from the clinical setting (see College of Nursing Policy C-6).

The criteria considered in denying the student access to patients are: demonstrated emotional instability, indifference or insensitivity to patient safety and comfort, lack of professional judgment, disregard for professional ethics and standards, any health condition which makes it impossible for the student to carry out her/his work without jeopardizing patient safety and comfort, or any other condition or circumstance which constitutes an unreasonable risk to the safety and well-being of the patient. A nursing student may be referred to appropriate resources for assistance with problems which are non-academic in nature but which might impair the student's effectiveness as a professional nurse.

Denial of student access to a clinical agency will result in the student being dismissed from the nursing program. The student shall be fully informed of the decision and its consequences and shall be afforded the right to appeal to the College of Nursing Scholastic Committee (see Policy A-8).

Unique Requirements of the Nursing Programs

Annual Compliance with Immunizations, CPR, Urine Drug Screen, Background Check, HIPAA/OSHA

The College of Nursing utilizes CastleBranch®, an accredited member of the National Association of Professional Background Screeners (NAPBS) for compliance tracking.

• Information for utilizing CastleBranch®, for the following requirements will be supplied in the program application:
  • Background Check
  • Urine Drug Screen
  • Immunizations
  • CPR (we accept ONLY American Heart Association BLS for HealthCare Providers)
  • Health Insurance
  • HIPAA and OSHA training

• Details for completing this compliance tracking can be found within the application.

• Fees and schedules for this mandatory requirement are posted on the application web pages for each BSN track: ABSN (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/undergraduate/acceleratedbsnapp.html) and BSN (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/undergraduate/placement.html)

• All applicants to the MSU College of Nursing Program must submit documentation of compliance with immunizations, CPR, Urine Drug Screen, Background Check and HIPAA/OSHA training.

• Thereafter, students with placement will submit evidence of compliance annually.

Transportation

Access to an automobile is necessary, particularly for clinical work in the community, including home visits, as well as in rural areas. Public transportation is not adequate in the cities with upper division campuses. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation.

Varied Schedules

Students are expected to participate in clinical experiences in a variety of community and rural agencies and at variously scheduled times. Therefore, students must make arrangements to accommodate an irregular academic schedule that may include evening and weekend hours.

Expenses

Nursing students have additional expenses beyond those normally required in other curricula. They include but are not limited to, uniforms, immunizations, background checks, drug screening and current professional healthcare provider CPR certification (including infants, children, and adults) before beginning clinical coursework. Special purchases include, but are not limited to, stethoscope and other clinical equipment.

There is a nursing program fee each semester which covers such costs as specialized equipment, and distance delivery support when enrolled in clinical nursing courses. The undergraduate nursing program fee is $420.00/semester.

Abilities and Skills

College of Nursing (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.html) Policy (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.html) A-19 (“Abilities Required for Success in the BSN degree Program”) requires that students read the policy and complete a form
indicating their agreement that they have the ability to perform certain
skills and tasks to successfully complete the BSN degree program.

**Final Exams**

According to University policy, the examination period is instructional
time, and it is expected that some instructional use is made of this period
if a final examination is not given.

College of Nursing Final exams will be given in the last instructional
week of the semester on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

1. By the fourth week of class, the CON shall distribute a final exam
schedule to students; this will be posted on the Exams and Finals
Schedules site (http://www.montana.edu/registrar/Schedules.html).
The campus directors are responsible for distributing this schedule to
the Associate Dean for Undergraduate students.

2. CON faculty are responsible for coordinating the Final exam
schedule to avoid conflict in the timing of finals.

3. In the event of a conflict between scheduled examinations, the
priority of scheduled versus make-up examination will be given
to any course the student is enrolled in, which is not part of the
CON curriculum. As an example, in the case of a student, who is
pursuing a Hispanic Studies Minor and has a final Spanish exam
which conflicts with a CON scheduled final, the CON faculty will
accommodate a make-up exam for the student.

4. Make-up examinations for conflicts are to be given only to those
students who, at the same hour:
   a. Have another Common Hour Examination
   b. Have a regularly scheduled class-- either in or out of the CON
curriculum
   c. Are engaged in an activity or event sanctioned in paragraph
      310.01 of the Student Conduct Code. (Official student
      representatives with a regularly scheduled practice or meeting
      that conflicts with a Common Hour Exam see point 5 below.)
   d. Sustained a personal emergency that prevented participation in
      the scheduled examination.

5. Students are responsible for alerting faculty to potential conflicts in
the schedule related to any courses they may be taking outside the
CON curriculum by the 5th week of class.
   a. In addition, a student who has three or more final examinations
      in any one day or an exam schedule which exceeds 5
      consecutive hours of examination should first contact the
      instructors of the courses to see if one exam can be rescheduled.
      If this rescheduling can’t be resolved, then the student should
      contact the campus director of his or her site at least one week
      before the beginning of final examination week to assist in
      resolving the conflict.

6. As per University policy, CON faculty must provide for make-up
examinations or other equivalent means of evaluating the student
who are absent from the scheduled examination for legitimate
reasons.

**Computer Access and Skills**

**Access to and skills in using computer hardware and software**

Because many of the courses in the nursing program are Web-based
or Web-enhanced, students must have access to and skills in using a
computer and a printer. They must also have a reliable connection to the
Internet with a current Internet browser.

**Undergraduate Programs**

- Nursing (http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing)

**Graduate Programs**

- Master of Nursing (MN) (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/
nursing/clinical-nurse-leader)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree (http://
catalog.montana.edu/graduate/nursing/dnp)
- Nursing Education certificate (non-degree option) (http://
catalog.montana.edu/graduate/nursing/online-certificate-nursing-
education)
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.