CURRICULUM

THE CURRICULUM OF THE NURSING PROGRAM at The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences is designed to provide theoretical knowledge and hands-on application throughout the human life span. The curriculum evolves from the concepts of normal to abnormal and simple to complex theory. The unifying threads of the curriculum are communication, nursing process, decision-making, critical thinking, holism, ethical/legal issues, healthcare issues, community, knowledge, teaching/learning, and professional relationships.

[CLINICAL RESOURCE TOOL (CRT) USED TO ENHANCE LEARNING]

The Nursing Program requires that all students purchase a clinical resource tool for use in all nursing courses. The cost of the CRT will be billed to the student. The Nursing Program will purchase the CRT nursing software package. The Nursing Program will distribute the CRT to the student. Students are required to utilize the CRT for clinical research and are required to bring the CRT to all clinical experiences. Students may also be instructed to bring the CRT to specific classroom activities. Students are responsible for the use and care of the CRT. If the software on the CRT malfunctions, it is the student's responsibility to contact the vendor for repair or replacement. If at any time the CRT is lost or stolen, it will be the student's responsibility to replace the CRT. The replacement CRT must be approved by the Nursing Program prior to the purchase, and must include comparable features and software of original device. All repairs, replacements, or reinstallation of software will be made at the student's expense and in a timely manner so as to provide optimal use in the learning environment.

[PROGRAM OVERVIEW]

- *Day Tract* is presented in 24 months. Classes and clinical experiences are scheduled Monday through Friday, and range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students are required to research their assigned patient chart the evening before each clinical experience.

- *Evening/Weekend Tract* is presented in 36 months with classes held three–four nights per week from 5 to 9 p.m. Clinical experiences may be scheduled every other Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the second and third years only. An evening/weekend applicant will need to be aware that second-year (nursing clinical) entry for new students is not a guarantee. Applicants are strongly advised to commit to at least one of the general education courses scheduled to run in the first year of the tract in order to secure a space in the new student cohort.

- Special class, clinical, and conference experiences may occur during the day (Monday through Friday) for both tracts.

- The graduate is qualified to submit an application for licensure in the state of her/his choice and to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination to officially receive the title of Registered Nurse.

- Upon completion of the Program, graduates may apply for advanced placement in a college or university that offers an upper division program leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

CURRICULUM

[PROMOTION]

In order to progress through the curriculum, a student must complete the nursing and general education courses having achieved:

- A 75% (2.33 GPA) or higher for the theoretical classes.
- A satisfactory (S) on the clinical performance evaluation.
- Completion of all standardized tests for each course.

Students are permitted to change tracts only during the first three weeks of a semester or between semesters.

The faculty reserves the right to withdraw any student at any time whose health, scholarship, clinical performance, or conduct does not meet the required standard.

[GRADUATION]

To graduate from the Program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Successful completion of all required courses.
- Completion of financial obligations.
- Exit interview with financial aid officer (if receiving financial aid).
- Return of resident keys, ID badge, parking card, and any Program, School, or Hospital property issued for a course.

A diploma is awarded to the student at the completion of the Day Tract (24 months) or the Evening/Weekend Tract (36 months). Upon graduation, a student is qualified to submit an application for licensure to the State Board of Nursing in the state of his or her choice, and, following board approval, take the National Council Licensure Examination.

During the interim between graduation and the issuance of the license, a graduate must apply for a temporary practice permit in order to be legally employed as a graduate nurse. Upon a graduate's satisfactory performance on the examination, a license to practice professional nursing in the title of Registered Nurse is issued by the state.

Graduation from the Nursing Program does not guarantee State Board of Nursing approval for licensure.

CURRICULUM PLAN | *Nursing Program*

[DAY TRACT] THE READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

[LEVEL I]

SEMESTER	COURSE	ACADEMIC UNIT	CREDIT	THEORY	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
FALL [16 weeks] August/December	NUR 101	8		80	120
	BIO 107/117		4	75	
	PSY 101		3	45	
	NUR 100	1		15	
SUBTOTAL		9	7	215	120
SPRING [16 weeks] January/April	NUR 102	8		80	120
	BIO 108/118		4	75	
	BIO 220		4	75	
SUBTOTAL		8	8	230	120
SUMMER [10 weeks] May/July	NUR 105	7		70	110
	PSY 208		3	45	
	NUR 104	3		40	15
SUBTOTAL		10	3	155	125
LEVEL I TOTAL		27	18	600	365

[LEVEL II]

SEMESTER	COURSE	ACADEMIC UNIT	CREDIT	THEORY	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
FALL [16 weeks] August/December	*NUR 201/202 OR NUR 203	10		110	120
	BIO 216		3	45	
	COM 101		3	45	
SUBTOTAL		10	6	200	120
SPRING [16 weeks] January/April	*NUR 201/202 OR NUR 203	10		110	120
	SOC 111		3	45	
	NUR 209	3		45	
SUBTOTAL		13	3	200	120
SUMMER [12 weeks] May/July	NUR 206	10		105	140
SUBTOTAL		10		105	140
LEVEL II TOTAL		33	9	505	380
PROGRAM TOTAL		**60**	**27**	**1105**	**745**

*THE CLASS IS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS. One group will have NUR 203 in fall semester and NUR 201/NUR 202 in spring semester. The second group will have NUR 201/NUR 202 in fall semester and NUR 203 in spring semester. NUR 201 and NUR 202 are each 5 academic units and presented in 8-week courses. *(See Catalog for additional course details.)* Students rotate to both courses in one semester.

CURRICULUM PLAN | *Nursing Program*

[EVENING/WEEKEND TRACT] THE READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

[LEVEL I-A]

SEMESTER	COURSE	ACADEMIC UNIT	CREDIT	THEORY	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
FALL [16 weeks] August/December	BIO 107/117		4	75	
	PSY 101		3	45	
SUBTOTAL			7	120	
SPRING [16 weeks] January/April	BIO 108/118		4	75	
	BIO 216		3	45	
SUBTOTAL			7	120	
SUMMER [12 weeks] May/July	BIO 220		4	75	
	COM 101		3	45	
SUBTOTAL			7	120	
LEVEL I-A TOTAL			21	360	

[LEVEL I-B]

SEMESTER	COURSE	ACADEMIC UNIT	CREDIT	THEORY	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
FALL [16 weeks] August/December	NUR 101	8		80	120
	SOC 111		3	45	
	NUR 100	1		15	
SUBTOTAL		9	3	140	120
SPRING [16 weeks] January/April	NUR 102	8		80	120
	PSY 208		3	45	
SUBTOTAL		8	3	125	120
SUMMER [12 weeks] May/July	NUR 105	7		70	110
	NUR 104	3		40	15
SUBTOTAL		10		110	125
LEVEL I-B TOTAL		27	6	375	365

[LEVEL II]

SEMESTER	COURSE	ACADEMIC UNIT	CREDIT	THEORY	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
FALL [16 weeks] August/December	*NUR 201/202 OR NUR 203	10		110	120
SUBTOTAL		10		110	120
SPRING [16 weeks] January/April	*NUR 201/202 OR NUR 203	10		110	120
	NUR 209	3		45	
SUBTOTAL		13		155	120
SUMMER [12 weeks] May/July	NUR 206	10		105	140
SUBTOTAL		10		105	140
LEVEL II TOTAL		33	0	370	380
PROGRAM TOTAL		**60**	**27**	**1105**	**745**

*THE CLASS IS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS. One group will have NUR 203 in fall semester and NUR 201/NUR 202 in spring semester. The second group will have NUR 201/NUR 202 in fall semester and NUR 203 in spring semester. NUR 201 and NUR 202 are each 5 academic units and presented in 8-week courses. *(See Catalog for additional course details.)* Students rotate to both courses in one semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIO 107 | ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I

Homeostatic mechanisms of the human body with emphasis on structure and function are studied. Gross and microscopic structures are correlated with function of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the body. Major topics include: skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. Three hours of lecture per week. COREQUISITE: *BIO 117* [3 CREDITS]

BIO 108 | ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II

Emphasis is on structure and function of endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, lymphatic, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Gross and microscopic structures are correlated with functions of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the body. Three hours of lecture per week. COREQUISITE: *BIO 118* [3 CREDITS]

BIO 117 | HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB I

Experimental approach to the study of human anatomy and physiology is used to reinforce lecture concepts. The exercises present the core elements of the subject matter in a hands-on manner. The labs are presented in the same time period the material is being discussed in lecture. One two-hour lab per week. COREQUISITE: *BIO 107* [1 CREDIT]

BIO 118 | HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB II

Experimental approach to the study of human anatomy and physiology is used to reinforce lecture concepts. The exercises present the core elements of the subject matter in a hands-on manner. Labs are presented in the same time period the material is being discussed in lecture. One two-hour lab per week. COREQUISITE: *BIO 108* [1 CREDIT]

BIO 216 | NUTRITION

Overview of nutritional requirements of individuals in the healthful state as well as modification of those requirements during illness. PREREQUISITES: *BIO 107/117, BIO 108/118, or permission of instructor.* [3 CREDITS]

BIO 220 | CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Study of the morphological and physiological nature of microorganisms and their relationship to humans in both the normal and deceased states. Emphasis on bacteriological techniques such as cultivation, staining, identification, and other techniques important in a clinical setting. Integrates laboratory and classroom work. [4 CREDITS]

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COM 101 | COMPOSITION AND RESEARCH

Core writing requirement, reviews fundamental principles of rhetoric, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Requirements include a research paper using MLA documentation guidelines and several expository papers. [3 CREDITS]

PSY 101 | INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction to major concepts and findings in psychology with emphasis on basic processes underlying human behavior. [3 CREDITS]

PSY 208 | HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN

Focuses on physical, cognitive, social, personality, and moral development through life span from infancy to old age. Cross cultural, gender, and minority issues are integrated when appropriate. PREREQUISITE: *PSY 101* [3 CREDITS]

SOC 111 | PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

An introduction to the major concepts in sociology. The nature and significance of culture, social groups, role and status, social interaction, stratification, system, and structure are discussed within a sociological framework. [3 CREDITS]

NUR 100 | MATHEMATICS FOR NURSES

This course is designed to introduce the student to the professional context of safe drug administration. Concepts related to critical thinking, logical thinking, and the nursing process are presented throughout the course. A review of the basic math skills needed to perform dosage calculations is presented. Systems of measurement that nurses and other allied health professionals must understand are examined. Common abbreviations used in medication administration are explored. Interpretation of medication orders and labels is emphasized. Varied classroom activities enable the student to apply methodologies to calculate drug dosages accurately.

ACADEMIC UNITS: *15 classroom hours* | *1 academic unit*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NUR 101 | FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING CARE I

This course provides an introduction to the healthcare system, principles of communication, and factors affecting the individual's environment. Ethical/legal and cultural concerns affecting health care are explored. An introduction to the nursing process provides the framework to meet the basic needs of the individual across the life span. Structured clinical laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the basic knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

ACADEMIC UNITS: *80 classroom theory hours | 120 clinical hours | 8 academic units*

NUR 102 | FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING CARE II

This course builds on the concepts presented in Nursing 101. Theory includes principles of teaching/learning, medication administration, nursing skills, and the nursing process as they apply to meeting the common medical and surgical needs of the individual across the life span. Structured clinical laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | BIO 107/117 |*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *80 classroom theory hours | 120 clinical hours | 8 academic units*

NUR 104 | HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN

This course provides theory related to health assessment of the individual across the life span. Knowledge and skills relevant to obtaining a health history are introduced. The student will learn to perform a holistic assessment, based on a systems approach, utilizing inspection, auscultation, palpation, and percussion. The appropriate reporting and documenting of assessment data will be addressed. Diagnostic and laboratory studies and the related nursing care will be integrated for the more common pathophysiological conditions. Simulated clinical exercises will give the student the opportunity to practice these skills. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 101 | NUR 102 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | PSY 101*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *40 classroom theory hours | 15 laboratory hours | 3 academic units*

NUR 105 | NURSING CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN I

This course provides theory related to a variety of acute and chronic health problems across the life span. Utilizing a holistic approach, the principles of medical-surgical and community nursing related to individuals with alterations in immune function, mobility, elimination, and blood components are explored. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. A variety of clinical laboratory experiences in acute, rehabilitative, and community settings enables the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | NUR 102 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | PSY 101*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *70 classroom theory hours | 110 clinical hours | 7 academic units*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NUR 201 | NURSING CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN II

This course provides theory related to women's health and specific concerns of the childbearing family. Utilizing a lifespan approach, the course is designed to expand student knowledge related to the provision of holistic nursing care to individuals and families in a variety of settings. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. A variety of clinical laboratory experiences in acute care and community settings enables the student to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | NUR 102 | NUR 104 | NUR 105 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | PSY 101 | PSY 208*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *55 classroom theory hours | 60 clinical hours | 5 academic units*

NUR 202 | NURSING CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN III

This course provides theory related to psychosocial factors affecting the individual across the lifespan. Adaptive and maladaptive responses are explored. The nursing process is utilized to meet the needs of the emotionally stressed or mentally compromised individual. Therapeutic communication, which provides the framework for the nurse/patient relationship, is emphasized. Varied clinical laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to the individual, the family, and the community. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | NUR 102 | NUR 104 | NUR 105 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | PSY 101 | PSY 208*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *55 classroom theory hours | 60 clinical hours | 5 academic units*

NUR 203 | NURSING CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN IV

This course provides theory related to a variety of acute and chronic health problems across the lifespan. The principles of medical and surgical nursing related to the individual with alteration in gas exchange, nutrition, metabolism, fluid and electrolytes, neurosensory, endocrine, and protective functions are explored. Restorative and rehabilitative aspects of health are emphasized. A variety of clinical laboratory settings enables the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | NUR 102 | NUR 104 | NUR 105 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | PSY 101 | PSY 208*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *110 classroom theory hours | 120 clinical hours | 10 academic units*

NUR 206 | NURSING CARE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN V

This course provides theory related to the individual with complex and diverse healthcare needs across the lifespan. The student will integrate advanced problem solving skills and nursing interventions in the care of the individual experiencing cardiovascular and respiratory alterations and/or life threatening insults such as major trauma, multiple organ failure, and organ transplant. An introduction to the principles of leadership and extensive clinical laboratory experience in a variety of healthcare settings are provided to assist the student with the transition to the role of the graduate nurse.

Thirty-five hours of theory is dedicated to a comprehensive synthesis of nursing theory throughout the lifespan in the format of an NCLEX preparatory course that focuses on prioritization, delegation, and decision-making encountered in the role of the professional nurse. The review focuses on the application of knowledge derived from nursing and supportive disciplines to implement the nursing process to assist individuals and groups to meet their healthcare needs. The student utilizes knowledge derived from all previous courses, combined with critical thinking and decision-making skills to conceptualize nursing care for clients with complex healthcare needs. PREREQUISITES *NUR 100 | NUR 101 | NUR 102 | NUR 104 | NUR 105 | NUR 203 | NUR 209 | BIO 107/117 | BIO 108/118 | BIO 220 | BIO 216 | COM 101 | PSY 101 | PSY 208 | SOC 111*

ACADEMIC UNITS:
105 classroom theory hours (includes 35 hours of NCLEX preparation) | 140 hours clinical laboratory | 10 academic units

NUR 209 | THE PROFESSIONAL NURSE IN CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE

This course presents an overview of contemporary issues encountered by the graduate nurse, promoting transition into professional nursing roles. The student will explore current trends, environmental demands, and legal and ethical issues as they impact healthcare practices today. The student will be introduced to the principles of leadership and management. Emphasis is placed on accountability and professional integrity as a graduate nurse. PREREQUISITES: *NUR 105*

ACADEMIC UNITS: *45 classroom theory hours | 3 academic units*

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR LPNs

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED for students who hold a current LPN license, pending the satisfaction of certain admission and curriculum requirements.

Applicants accepted into the Program will be required to take a standardized test to determine placement in the Program. The test will be administered during the month of June prior to the fall semester of enrollment. The student must pay all fees associated with test administration. Applicants who achieve a 70% or greater score in the overall test percentage ("decision score") AND 70% or greater score in each of the content and nursing process scores will be granted credit for NUR 101 and NUR 102. Applicants who do not reach the 70% benchmarks on their final test will be required to enroll in NUR 101 and proceed through the curriculum as it is designed. The Curriculum Coordinator will make the final decision regarding placement.

Applicants who meet all advance standing requirements will be:

- Granted credit for Nursing 101 and Nursing 102.
- Required to attend a review of the advanced placement process during orientation week in August.

TEST TYPE: *NLN ACE I PN-RN Foundations of Nursing Examination*

TESTING FEE: *$100**

MATRICULATION FEE: *$700**

**Costs are subject to change with yearly tuition fees.*