

# Nursing

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The nursing major is approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education to provide an educational program that builds on natural and behavioral sciences and integrates the liberal arts with professional courses. Students complete degree requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.). Graduates are prepared to enter the profession of nursing in a variety of areas and are prepared for graduate education.

The baccalaureate curriculum is based on the belief of the faculty that socialization of nursing students into the profession is a *journey* that continues throughout and beyond their baccalaureate education. The faculty has adopted “the hero’s journey” as presented by anthropologist Joseph Campbell as a unifying theme for the nursing curriculum.

Objectives established for students in this major include, among others: respect and value the dignity of human life; appropriately implement selected nursing interventions; and integrate knowledge derived from liberal arts, science, and nursing in professional nursing practice.

Additional information is available at [www.mtmercy.edu/nursing](http://www.mtmercy.edu/nursing)

## Procedure for Admission into the Nursing Major:

Students must complete an application for the nursing major by following the procedures below. (In the spring semester of the first year. Students are required to meet the admission criteria that are most current for the semester in which they wish to be admitted).

1. Complete the application form for the major. Prior to filing this application the student must:
  - A. Have completed or be in the process of completing the following prerequisite courses or their equivalent with a grade of C or above (C- does not count) in: BI 125 Foundations of Biology & Scientific Inquiry I, BI 150 Basic Microbiology, CH 113 Organobiochemistry, NU 111 Call To Adventure I, NU 114 Call To Adventure II, or NU 115 Call to Adventure: Transitions, English Composition, and at least two of the following courses: PS 101 Introductory Psychology, PS 124 Developmental Psychology, CO 101 Oral Communication, SO 122 Introduction To Sociology.
  - B. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.70 based on a 4.00 scale.
2. The department uses an online document storage and background check database call Certified Background. This company performs the required background check and stores the necessary documents required for admission to the major. There is a fee paid to the company for this service. Each student is required to register with Certified Background when they are admitted to the major. The following items are required to be loaded into the database by the deadline designated each Fall term:
  - A. Physical exam and immunization update (physical form is available online at [www.mtmercy.edu/nursing-0](http://www.mtmercy.edu/nursing-0) );
  - B. Proof of current Healthcare Provider Basic Cardiac Life Support (CPR);

- C. Proof of current health insurance;
- D. Proof of completion of Certified Nursing Assistant Course;
- E. Proof of completion of Mandatory Reporter Certification (course is available at Mount Mercy); and
- F. Complete background check (to be completed by Certified Background after registering online). Any concerns with background checks will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Fulfillment of these specific requirements for admission does not ensure admission to the Department of Nursing. For those applicants who meet the minimal requirements, the department’s Admissions, Promotion, and Graduation Committee will select the applicants who in its judgment are best qualified physically, emotionally, and scholastically and best meet the standards expected of prospective members of the nursing profession.

The student is responsible for transportation to and from clinical experiences and field trips.

Nursing students may not fulfill prerequisite requirements by taking CLEP exams for credit in place of courses which have been attempted and not successfully completed.

The number of students admitted to the nursing major may be limited due to available faculty and clinical resources. In the event that more students qualify for admission than can be accepted, the Admissions, Promotion, and Graduation Committee will determine the number of students to be admitted.

A student who is not accepted into the nursing major may appeal in accordance with the Academic/Administrative Grievance Procedure for Students as stated in the *Good Book*.

Students wishing to transfer from another baccalaureate nursing program will be considered on an individual basis. This process begins with a meeting with the chairperson of the department and the application will be considered by the Admissions, Promotion, and Graduation Committee.

## Procedure for Continuation in the Major

Once admitted to the Department of Nursing, in order to progress, the student must maintain a C or above (C- does not count) in BI 273 Human Anatomy, BI 274 Human Physiology, PS 124 Developmental Psychology, SO 122 Introduction To Sociology and CO 101 Oral Communication and a C or above (C- does not count) in all nursing courses. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00. The faculty of the nursing department also reserves the right of retaining only those students who in the judgment of the faculty satisfy the requirements of scholarship and health and meet the standards expected of prospective members of the nursing profession.

All nursing courses are expected to be taken in an uninterrupted sequence until completed. If interruptions occur the student must seek readmission to the nursing major. In order to be considered for re-admission to the nursing major following any interruption of progression in the program, the student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.70 or above and submit in writing to the department of nursing the request to re-enter the nursing program. Each application for re-admission will be reviewed on an individual basis by the department’s Admissions, Promotion, and Graduation Committee.

Specific guidelines for the readmission procedure are described in the Nursing Student Handbook. A student may only repeat a course at the discretion of The Admissions, Promotion, and Graduation Committee based on the student's application for readmission to the major. Students who are academically unsuccessful in a nursing course may repeat the course once; however, only one nursing course may be repeated.

Additional details about policies and procedures related to the Department of Nursing may be found in the current edition of the Nursing Student Handbook on the department's web site.

## Career Opportunities

Hospitals, public health agencies, and various other community health services represent the major career openings for graduates.

## Prerequisites

BI 125	Foundations of Biology & Scientific Inquiry I	3
BI 150	Basic Microbiology	4.5
BI 273	Human Anatomy	4.5
BI 274	Human Physiology	3
CH 113	Organobiochemistry	4.5
CO 101	Oral Communication	3
Writing course		4
PS 101	Introductory Psychology	3
PS 124	Developmental Psychology	3
SO 122	Introduction To Sociology	3
Total Hours		35.5

## Major

For Four-Year (pre-licensure) Nursing Students entering Mount Mercy in the Fall of 2011 and later: Admission to the major plus:

NU 111	Call To Adventure I	0.5
NU 114	Call To Adventure II	0.5
NU 224	Nursing Skills for the Journey	3
NU 230	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NU 232	Holistic Human Assessment	4
NU 240	Disease Paths	4
NU 260	Pathways To Professional Nursing	5
NU 320	Essentials of Nutrition	2
NU 330	Beginnings: Maternal Newborn Nursing	3
NU 332	Challenges Along the Journey: Nursing Interventions for Clients with Mental Illness	3
NU 350	Challenges Along the Journey: Interventions for Core Body System Alterations	6
NU 352	Challenges Along the Journey: Intervention for Alterations in Regulatory and Protective Mechanisms	6
NU 411	Professional Preparation	1
NU 465	Integrating Journey: Complex Concepts and Clinical Immersion	5
NU 470	Population Based Nursing	3

NU 471	Professional Aspects of Nursing	4
Total Hours		53

## Academic Requirements

Students must maintain a C or above (C- does not count) in all nursing courses, and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00.

Mount Mercy University's Master of Science in Nursing program is focused on health promotion and disease prevention, and is dedicated to preparing graduates to lead the profession in meeting the challenges of an ever-changing, complex healthcare system. Whether employed in the community or an in-patient setting, nurses will acquire the knowledge and skills to lead, teach, advocate and practice with individuals, families and communities at an advanced level.

The format of the master's nursing degree program allows students to focus on a specific area of interest with the flexibility of taking one class at a time. A full-time student may complete the MSN program in approximately 18 months. This non-thesis program includes a clinical project to be completed within the practicum experience.

The master's degree program in nursing at Mount Mercy recognizes the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy in meeting the needs of others as it prepares nurses in advanced roles in education and health advocacy. Two tracks are available: Health Advocacy and Nursing Education.

MSN students build the necessary skills, for example, to: implement appropriate nursing interventions; integrate knowledge gained from a baccalaureate nursing education with advanced knowledge of health promotion and disease prevention; and engage in critical inquiry.