

Nursing Programs Offered

Bachelor of Science degree
Nursing

Associate of Science degree
Nursing

Nursing Faculty

Professors
Suzanne Lockwood
Mary Pappas

Associate Professor
Trish Goudie, Chair/Dean

Assistant Professors
Gayle Gransbery
Mary Clair McGuire
Bonnie Osborn

Instructor
Lisa Scheresky-O'Neil

College of Nursing

Montana State University-Northern offers multiple-entry/multiple exit nursing programs that include an Associate of Science degree in Nursing (ASN) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). LPN's may apply for advanced standing in ASN nursing courses which will shorten their program of study by approximately 12 semester credits.

Advising Information

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor at the beginning of each semester to confirm their plan of study and make any necessary adjustments. **Please note** that the suggested plan of study listed with each degree program is merely a sample schedule. Due to course scheduling changes, staff assignments, and other conflicts, it may not be possible to follow the suggested plans exactly. Meeting with an advisor before registering for classes each semester will allow students to plan a schedule that will meet their needs and assist them in completing requirements in an efficient manner.

The ASN qualifies the graduate to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse. The nursing program at Montana State University-Northern is fully approved by the Montana State Board of Nursing and the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The program prepares men and women for entry-level Registered Nurse positions in hospitals and other health care agencies.

The first year of the ASN program is offered at both the Montana State University-Northern campus in Havre and the MSU-Northern campus in Lewistown, with clinical experiences at Northern Montana Hospital, Northern Montana Care Center, and Central Montana Medical Center. The second year of the ASN program is offered at the Montana State University-Northern and various extended sites, including Great Falls and Lewistown.

The BSN provides the opportunity for registered nurses to continue their education in the profession. The BSN program follows the Rules and Statutes of the Montana State Board of Nursing and is fully accredited by the NLNAC. The BSN degree builds on previous nursing education and is directed toward an expanded educational base in the areas of nursing leadership and management, community health, and advanced clinical practice. The BSN graduate is prepared as a generalist to practice in a variety of settings and has the foundation for graduate education.

The BSN classes are offered entirely on-line through the internet to meet the needs of adult, non-traditional learners. Most BSN students maintain their jobs and residences and are able to complete the degree without moving to the university setting. It is usually possible to attain BSN clinical experiences in the students' geographic area of residence.

Further information and program requirements may be obtained by calling the College of Nursing office at 265-4196 or the University toll-free number, 1-800-662-6132, or by visiting the College of Nursing Web page at <http://www.msun.edu/academics/nursing>.

Prerequisites for entering the Nursing Program:

Associate Degree:

1. Admission to Montana State University-Northern. Submit official copies of all high school and university transcripts to Montana State University-Northern Admissions Office.
2. Submit a copy of all *High School* transcripts to the College of Nursing.
3. Application for admission into the nursing major and receipt of all *High School* transcripts in the College of Nursing by January 15 for the next Fall Semester. LPN's must have application and transcripts submitted to the College of Nursing by January 15 for admission to NURS 220 and Level II.

4. Completion with a "C" or better, high school algebra, biology, and chemistry or university level equivalencies.
5. Admission into Montana State University-Northern MATH 110/112 as determined by placement examination or proof of completion of an equivalent math course.
6. An overall cumulative GPA of 2.50 or greater.
7. Licensed Practical Nurses may receive advanced standing into Level II nursing courses. A grade of "C" or better in NURS 212, Transition to ASN, must be obtained. This course must be taken within 3 years prior to entering the Level II nursing courses, but it's strongly recommended that it be taken during the spring semester just prior to entry into Level II. Ask for an application and advanced standing procedure from the College of Nursing.
8. Coursework transferred from other colleges must reflect current knowledge and practices.
9. Students who desire to transfer into the Associate Degree Program from another school of nursing may apply by submitting a petition to the Chair/Dean of the College of Nursing. Placement in the program is determined on an individual basis through transcript and/or course evaluations. Applicants may be asked to take a standardized or teacher-constructed test, and demonstrate specific skills in the University nursing laboratory or in a clinical setting. A cumulative grade point average of 2.50 and a grade of "C" or better in each required course is necessary for admission to the nursing curriculum. Once placement is determined, admission is granted on a space-available basis.
10. Applicants not admitted into the Nursing Program by the expected date of admission indicated on their application must reapply for future consideration.

Baccalaureate Degree:

1. Admission to Montana State University-Northern and submission of all high school and college transcripts to The Montana State University-Northern Admissions Office.
2. Submit all copies of *High School* transcripts to the College of Nursing.
3. Applications and transcripts should be received by January 15 for summer admission.
4. Must meet requirements stated above and show evidence of current licensure as a Registered Nurse, or license pending a Montana license is required prior to enrolling in BSN courses other than NURS 321, NURS 322, and NURS 347.

Previous nursing course work will be evaluated on an individual basis through transcript analysis, evaluation of course syllabi, and course descriptions.

Additional Requirements for Admission to, and Continuation of, Nursing Programs at MSU-Northern:

1. A University entrance physical exam.
2. Yearly proof of freedom from tuberculosis.
3. Immunizations or documented proof of immunity to the diseases of measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, and Hepatitis B immunization series started (titre required six months after completion of series).
4. Any additional laboratory tests or health standards required by participating clinical facilities or College of Nursing faculty to document health status and practices.
5. Evidence of Professional Liability Insurance, yearly.
6. Evidence of health insurance, yearly.

General Requirements for Progression and Graduation, for both the ASN and BSN programs:

1. A grade of "C" or better is mandatory in each required course.
2. Nursing students must maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.25 or better on a 4.00 scale.
3. ASN students who withdraw from or receive a grade lower than "C" in any nursing course required for the nursing major must drop from the nursing sequence at that time. Students must petition for reinstatement into the nursing program for continuance of the nursing curriculum (See Nursing Student Handbook for Procedure).
4. Students will be dropped from the nursing program if they receive grades below a "C" on any of the required courses (nursing or support).
5. To assure progression through the program, students must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. Satisfactory classroom academic performance within a nursing course does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program. Students must meet the criteria, which assures patient/client safety and welfare when assigned to clinical situations.

Participation in Clinical Experiences:

1. Students are expected to participate in clinical experiences in hospitals, nursing homes, and other community agencies at varied time schedules. Students who are employed must arrange with employers to allow for flexibility in meeting their academic and clinical schedules. The clinical schedule may involve day, evenings, and weekend assignments.
2. Participation in the clinical area is dependent upon space availability. Those students having the highest academic achievement will be selected first, if the space is limited.
3. The College of Nursing safeguards student welfare against contractible diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis B by teaching students, beginning with the first nursing course, precautionary measures including the use of standard precautions. This information is reinforced in each subsequent clinical course throughout the curriculum.
4. Faculty members have an obligation to the patient/client to insure that nursing students who care for them are competent to do so. In the interest of safeguarding the patient/client's welfare, students must meet the criteria detailed in the Nursing Student Handbook. In order to participate in clinical assignments, the student must:
 - a. Demonstrate good health status and practices and be free from any condition that could jeopardize patient/client health, which includes abuse of any mood altering chemicals.
 - b. Demonstrate emotional stability.
 - c. Demonstrate sensitivity to patient/client safety and comfort.
 - d. Practice within legal standards and demonstrate regard for professional ethics.
 - e. Comply with agency requirements pertinent to student participation.
 - f. Carry out patient/client care assignments with the required knowledge and skill as determined in classroom theory and laboratory demonstrations.
 - g. Provide own transportation to and from classroom and clinical assignments.

If, for any reason, the above criteria are not met, or if there is any conditional circumstance which may constitute an unreasonable risk to the safety and well being of the patient/client, a student may be removed from the program. The final decision regarding removal will be based on the judgment of the College of Nursing faculty and the Chair/Dean of Nursing.

Reinstatement after Withdrawal from the Nursing Major:

Reinstatement to the nursing major is not automatic. A former student must direct a petition to the Chair/Dean of the College of Nursing before the beginning of the semester. Students petitioning for reinstatement may be required to pass a written test and a practical performance exam for placement into the nursing program. Students who have left the program for non-academic reasons, and have been out for one year or less, may be reinstated, on a space available basis, without testing. Additional criteria and policies are listed in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Additional information regarding student policies and guidelines may be found in the Nursing Student Handbook, which is updated annually.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

Bachelor of Science Degree Major in Nursing

Freshman year (Havre or Lewistown)	F	S
BIOL 241	4	
CHEM 112 ***	3	
ENGL 111	3	
MATH 110	4	
OR		
MATH 112	3	
BIOL 217		4
BIOL 242		4
CIS 110		3
SPCH 141		3
Total	14-15	14

Sophomore year (Havre or Lewistown)	F	S
NURS 128	6	
Gen Ed Area B (300-400 level)	3	
PSYC 101	3	
ENGL 112		3
NURS 136		6
NURS 212		3
Gen Ed Area A (300-400 level)		3
Total	12	15

Summer Sessions (sites vary)	F	S
NURS 220	4	
BUS 250	3	
OR		
MATH 116	3	
OR		
MATH 140	4	
Gen Ed Area A (300-400 level)		3
Total	10-11	

Junior year (Great Falls, Havre, or Lewistown)	F	S
NURS 250	6	
NURS 251	7	
NURS 252		6
NURS 253		6
NURS 254		1
Total	13	13

Summer Sessions (internet)	F	S
NURS 321	3	
NURS 322	3	
NURS 347	3	
Total	9	

Senior year (internet)	F	S
NURS 344	3	
NURS 440	3	
NURS 441	3	
NURS 449	3	
NURS 331		3
OR		
NURS 346		3
NURS 444		3
NURS 446		3
NURS 447		3
Total	12	12

Bachelor of Science Degree Major in Nursing

Credits

General Education Core Requirements..... 15-16
Some of these courses may be specified by your major, please consult with your academic advisor for more details.

Distribution Requirements24
Some of these requirements will be filled by required courses in your major. Please consult your academic advisor for more details.

Required Courses
BUS 250 Business Statistics3
OR
MATH 116 Applied Statistics3
OR

MATH 140 Probability and Statistics4
BIOL 217 Microbiology4
BIOL 241 Anatomy and Physiology I4
BIOL 242 Anatomy and Physiology II4
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology3
CHEM 112 Physiological Chemistry3
NURS 128 Introduction to Nursing6
NURS 136 Health Needs & Nursing Practice6
NURS 220 Psychiatric Mental Health/Illness**4
NURS 250 Adult Health/Illness Needs I6
NURS 251 Maternal-Child Health/Illness Needs7
NURS 252 Adult Health/Illness Needs II6
NURS 253 Adult Health/Illness Needs III6
NURS 254 Principles of Nursing Practice1
NURS 321 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing3
NURS 322 Health Assessment3
NURS 344 Nursing Care of Clients with Complex Needs3
NURS 347 Health Education3
NURS 440 Leadership & Management3
NURS 441 Leadership and Management Practicum3
NURS 444 Nursing Research3
NURS 446 Community Health Nursing3
NURS 447 Community Health Practicum3
NURS 449 Clinical Preceptorship3

Select one course from the following list of selectives.

Selectives
NURS 331 Nursing in Diverse Cultures3
NURS 346 Gerontological Nursing3

*Course only for LPNs articulating into our ASN program.

**Sites vary. Course requires a week of clinicals in Lewistown.

Total minimum credits required for degree.....120

Students who plan to complete the BSN degree must first be awarded the ASN degree at MSU-Northern or at another approved nursing program.

PLEASE NOTE: Students enrolling in this program may pay between \$25 - \$50/semester in course fees. Those fees are in addition to tuition and other fees.

Associate of Science Degree Major in Nursing

Credits

General Education Core Requirements 12-13
Some of these courses may be specified by your major, please consult with your academic advisor for more details.

Distribution Requirements 6
Some of these requirements will be filled by required courses in your major. Please consult your academic advisor for more details.

Required Courses

BIOL 217 Microbiology	4
BIOL 241 Anatomy and Physiology I.....	4
BIOL 242 Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology	3
CHEM 112 Physiological Chemistry***	3
NURS 128 Introduction to Nursing.....	6
NURS 136 Health Needs & Nursing Practice.....	6
NURS 212 Transition to Associate Degree Nursing*.....	3
NURS 220 Psychiatric Mental Health/Illness**	4
NURS 250 Adult Health/Illness Needs I.....	6
NURS 251 Maternal-Child Health/Illness Needs	7
NURS 252 Adult Health/Illness Needs II.....	6
NURS 253 Adult Health/Illness Needs III.....	6
NURS 254 Principles of Nursing Practice.....	1

*Course only for LPNs articulating into our ASN program.

**Sites vary. Course requires a week of clinicals in Lewistown.

***Prerequisite: Requires High School Chemistry or CHEM 111.

Total minimum credits required for degree 72

After graduation from ASN program students are eligible to sit for NCLEX for RN licensure.

PLEASE NOTE: Students enrolling in this program may pay between \$25 - \$50/semester in course fees. Those fees are in addition to tuition and other fees.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

Associate of Science Degree Major in Nursing

Freshman year (Havre or Lewistown)	F	S
BIOL 241	4	
ENGL 111	3	
CHEM 112	3	
MATH 110	4	
OR		
MATH 112	3	
BIOL 217		4
BIOL 242		4
CIS 110		3
SPCH 141		3
Total	13-14	14

Sophomore year (Havre or Lewistown)	F	S
NURS 128	6	
PSYC 101	3	
NURS 136		6
Total	9	6

Summer Sessions (sites vary)	F	S
NURS 212		3
NURS 220		4
Total		4-7

Junior year (Havre, Great Falls, or Lewistown)	F	S
NURS 250	6	
NURS 251	7	
NURS 252		6
NURS 253		6
NURS 254		1
Total	13	13