

NURSING (BS)

Health and Human Enrichment

The Plymouth State University Nursing program received approval on probation by the New Hampshire Board of Nursing. The Baccalaureate degree program in Nursing at Plymouth State University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE>).

Progression/Readmission Policy

Nursing Course Grading Policy

Students **must** earn a grade of a B- (minimum numeric score of 80) or higher in all nursing (NR) theory courses and a PASS in all nursing (NR) clinical courses in order to progress in the program.

Nursing Department Grading Criteria for all nursing (NR) theory courses is as follows:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Student Progression

- Students must earn a grade of a B- (minimum numeric score of 80) or higher in all required nursing prerequisite courses and required nursing (NR) courses and a PASS in all nursing (NR) clinical courses in order to progress in the program.
- Students must earn and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.67 (B-) in both the major GPA and the cumulative GPA in order to progress in the program.
- Students who fail to achieve a minimum grade of B- in any nursing prerequisite course or nursing (NR) theory course, or receive a No Pass in a clinical/lab course, may not progress until the course is successfully repeated.
- If a student receives a grade lower than a B- in a prerequisite course, they may retake that course one time in order to earn a grade of B- or higher. If the student does not earn a grade of B- the second time, or if they do not earn a minimum grade of B- in another prerequisite course, they will be dismissed from the Nursing major.
- If a student does not meet the required minimum grade in any nursing (NR) course, the student is dismissed from the Nursing major and may petition, in writing, for readmission if applicable (see Readmission Policy).
- Students must complete the program of all required nursing courses within five years of commencing nursing (NR) courses (barring

significant extenuating circumstances such as medical issues, family issues, etc.).

Readmission

Nursing students requesting readmission to the PSU Nursing Program following dismissal for any reason are required to apply to the Admissions, Progression, and Retention Committee (APR) to be considered for readmission. Potential readmit students must reapply by submitting a letter to the Committee, formerly requesting readmission to the program, which should address the reasons(s) for their dismissal, and identify a plan(s) for successful completion of the program, should the student be readmitted. The Committee will then require an interview with the potential student to review his/her proposals and explore the potential for the student's future success in the Program. If the student is granted readmission to the PSU Nursing Program, certain conditions may apply. If the APR Committee deems it necessary for the readmitted student to audit previously taken courses to support future success, the student will be expected to complete the required audited courses(s) with a grade of at least an 80.00 (passing grade for nursing courses), with all course requirements completed as described in the course syllabus. Readmitted students will be required to agree to all terms of readmission as stated in their readmission letter, prior to readmission. Should the readmitted student fail to achieve a passing grade in any audited courses, including a clinical course, or fail to meet other stipulations for readmission, the student will be permanently excused from the Program.

In addition to the above, the following conditions must be met:

- A course in which the student does not meet the minimum progression grade (B-) must be successfully repeated **before** enrolling in any subsequent nursing course.
- Students who are granted readmission and subsequently fail to progress in the program will be permanently dismissed from the Nursing Program.
- A student reapplying to the Nursing Program may additionally need to reapply to the University. Please see University readmission policies found in the Academic Catalog.
- Students must enroll in both the theory and clinical components of all courses with identified corequisites as determined by Admission, Progression, and Retention Committee upon readmission.

Admission to the Nursing Program

Admission to the Nursing program is competitive and is not guaranteed. Students must be admitted to the University and to the Nursing program.

The following criteria must be met in order to be considered for admission into the Nursing Program:

- Submit either an ATI TEAS V score at the "Proficient" level or above (to learn more about preparing for the test, please go to <https://www.atitesting.com/solutions/pre-program/teas.aspx>), or a revised SAT (taken as of March 2016) with a minimum score of 1080, with a minimum score of 500 in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing component and the Math component.
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or greater in High School science courses.
- Demonstration of math proficiency: courses in Algebra I, II, and Geometry.
- Average to strong writing skills, demonstrated in the application essay.

Clinical Practicum Nursing Requirements Policy

1. Student Fees:

Students incur the costs associated with clinical requirements.

2. Clinical Requirements:

Students must create an account with Castle Branch (@certifiedBackground.com (<http://certifiedBackground.com>)) for tracking of required documentation. All documentation must be uploaded to CertifiedBackground.com (<http://CertifiedBackground.com>) by the date specified by the nursing Clinical Coordinator in the semester prior to starting clinical courses.

- a. Proof of CPR Certification: Before beginning clinical in a health care agency, every student is required to have current Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider (American Heart Association) or Professional Rescuer CPR (Red Cross) certification. The certification must be current for the entire time that the student is registered and attending clinical courses.
- b. Proof of Physical Exam: within one calendar year.
- c. Proof of Health Insurance: Personal health insurance is required for all nursing students.
- d. Proof of Immunizations and Vaccines*
 - Students are required to submit proof of the following:
 1. TB/PPD (2 step for initial or if not done within one year) within a year prior to the student's participation in the clinical experience or, for students with a history of a positive TB test, a recent chest x-ray or documentation of the gold test is required. **Please Note:** A yearly TB test is required. Students are required to have follow-up care if the TB test results are positive.
 2. German Measles/Rubella: Proof of 2 documented MMR vaccinations (only 1 MMR if born before 1957) or immune status documented by titer.
 3. Measles/Rubeola: Proof of 2 documented MMR vaccinations (only 1 MMR if born before 1957) or immune status documented by titer.
 4. Mumps: Proof of 2 documented MMR vaccinations (only 1 MMR if born before 1957) or immune status documented by titer.
 5. Children Pox/Varicella: Proof of 2 documented Varicella vaccinations or immune status documented by titer or documentation by PCP of having chickenpox. **Please Note:** Varicella titer, Rubella (German Measles) titer, and Rubeola (Red measles) titer at the beginning of the program. Once titers are documented, they do not have to be repeated.
 6. Hepatitis B: Proof of 3 documented Hepatitis B vaccines or immune status documented by titer. Students who do not take the Hepatitis B vaccine are required to sign a waiver.
 - Twinrix vaccination may be substituted for documentation of Hepatitis A & B immunization status.
 7. Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus (DPT): Please provide documentation of most recent Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus Booster or Tdap Vaccination. If you have received a tetanus immunization within the last two years you will not need to receive this immunization. If you tetanus

booster is over two years old, you must receive this booster.

8. Influenza Vaccine: Proof of Seasonal Influenza Vaccination.

- a. Drug Screening:
- b. Medical/professional drug screen may be required depending on clinical agency requirements (see Substance Use and Abuse Policy).
- c. Maintaining Documentation: Documentation of the requirements above must be kept up-to-date. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain current records. Students who do not maintain current documentation will not be permitted to attend clinical.

3. Background Review

- a. Purpose: The Nursing Program is committed to providing the public with nurses and nursing students who demonstrate personal and professional behaviors consistent with the standards of the nursing profession. The purpose of nursing licensure is to safeguard life, health, and the public welfare of the people of this state. In order to protect the people of the State of New Hampshire from the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of services of individuals in the practice of nursing, a criminal background check on all nursing students and any nurse not licensed by the State of New Hampshire is required. The student is responsible for the payment required for the review.
- b. Policy: Satisfactory (no results) results of a background review are required to progress in the nursing program.
- c. Requirement: Students will be required to undergo background review per clinical agency requirements. This may include a federal background check, State of New Hampshire background check and Bureau of Elder Abuse Services (BEAS) check as well as fingerprinting.
- d. Refusal: Refusal to provide consent for investigation will result in exclusion from nursing courses and termination from the nursing major.
- e. Result Review:
 - i. Background review information released to the Nursing Program will be used only for purposes of assisting in making decisions about continued matriculation in the nursing major. Certain convictions may be considered a disqualifying factor for continuation in the nursing major.
 - ii. If a background review includes information that the student claims is untrue or inaccurate, these concerns must be addressed by the student to the Bureau of Criminal Identification for resolution.
 - iii. Students have an obligation to report any criminal conviction to the Director of Nursing within five (5) days of its occurrence. Failure to notify the Director may result in dismissal from the program.
 - iv. The Director of Nursing will review the results of all background reviews. If adverse information deemed to be relevant to the applicant's suitability for nursing student status is obtained, the Director of Nursing will notify the student in writing.
 - v. The student will have fourteen (14) days to respond to the information either in writing or, if appropriate, by meeting with the Director of Nursing.
 - vi. If a student is disciplined through the PSU Judicial System, the student must notify the program chair within five (5) days.

- vii. Background reviews are non-transferrable from other schools or outside agencies.
- f. Convictions:
- i. The existence of a conviction does not automatically terminate an individual from the nursing major. Relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to: the date, nature, and number of convictions; the relationship the conviction bears to the duties and responsibilities of nursing; and successful efforts toward rehabilitation. Students who do not disclose criminal convictions on the Plymouth State University Common application and have a positive background review may not progress in the nursing program. Failure to disclose is done at the student's own risk.
 - ii. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime or have a pending criminal case must meet eligibility requirements for affiliating clinical facilities. This can be a lengthy process, so students need to begin this process early. Students must also meet the New Hampshire Board of Nursing requirements for licensure eligibility (see NH Board of Nursing web site). Progression and mandatory clinical placements in the nursing program may be contingent on a satisfactory (no result) background review. Clinical agencies may independently perform background reviews on students awaiting placement and do not have to accept a student with an unsatisfactory background review. In addition, clinical agencies may refuse students with certain convictions on their record. The nursing program will not secure alternate clinical placements for students who cannot be placed in an agency related to an unsatisfactory background review.

4. Other Clinical Requirements

- a. Orientation: Students must meet all annual agency orientation requirements to attend clinical. Students will be responsible for submitting all required clinical documentation by the date specified by the course Clinical Coordinator or his/her designee, each term. Much of this documentation will be done through the Central Clinical Placement Program (CCP). Students will be instructed in the procedures for completing required documentation each term.
- b. Travel outside of the Plymouth area may be required to complete the clinical portion of the program; students are expected to provide their own transportation for all clinical experiences and to assume all costs incurred.
- c. Students are responsible for their own uniforms.

Completion Requirements

- The nursing courses are completed in sequence in a cohort model. A maximum of 90 transfer credits may be applied to the degree.
- Credits in the major: 87 semester hours, which includes 66 credits of nursing (NR) courses.
- 120 credit hours are required to complete the BS in Nursing, with a grade of a B- (minimum numeric score of 80) or higher in all nursing (NR) theory courses and a PASS in all nursing (NR) clinical courses.
- Students must earn and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.67 (B-) in both the major and the cumulative GPA in order to progress in the program.
- Once students begin their nursing courses at PSU [courses with the designation of NR preceding the course number], they have five years

to complete their degree. This includes the degree requirements/ completion of the degree.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
BI 2110 & BI 2130	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory I	4
BI 2120 & BI 2140	Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory II	4
BI 2340	Microbiology for Nurses	4
MA 2300	Statistics I (QRCO)	3
PS 2010	Introduction to General Psychology	3
PS 2050	Life-Span Developmental Psychology	3
NR 2100	Foundations of Professional Nursing	3
NR 2300	Biochemistry for Nurses	3
NR 2500	Health Assessment	2
NR 2700	Pathophysiology	3
NR 3020	Introduction to Patient-Centered Care (DICO)	3
NR 3025	Pharmacology	3
NR 3035	Nursing Care of Children	2
NR 3052	Clinical Applications of Patient-Centered Care	4
NR 3054	Clinical Applications of Pediatric Wellness and Illness	2
NR 3057	Clinical Applications of Community Based Care	2
NR 3059	Clinical Evidence-Based Practice in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	2
NR 3065	Leadership, Collaboration, and Quality in Healthcare Systems (TECO)	4
NR 3070	Health and Wellness of Older Adults (WECO)	3
NR 3085	NCLEX-RN Success I	2
NR 3092	Evidence-Based Practice in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3
NR 3094	Evidence-Based Practice in Medical Surgical Nursing	3
NR 4015	Maternal and Newborn Care	2
NR 4020	Global Health and Population-Based Health Care (GACO)	3
NR 4050	Nursing Leadership for Acute Care Nursing (INCO)	3
NR 4055	Clinical Applications of Evidence-Based Practice in Medical-Surgical Nursing	2
NR 4057	Clinical Application of Maternal and Newborn Care	2
NR 4060	Research Process and Evidence-Based Practice (QRCO,WRCO)	3
NR 4073	NCLEX-RN Success II	1
NR 4082	Leadership and Quality Improvement in Clinical Settings	6
General Education (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education)		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
CTDI	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI	Past and Present Direction	3-4

SSDI	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI) ¹		4-8
Electives		9-10
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 16-17 credits because SIDI is waived for BS Nursing.

Students must earn a minimum grade of B- in all prerequisite courses. Students must earn a grade of a B- (minimum numeric score of 80) or higher in all nursing (NR) theory courses and a **pass** in all nursing (NR) clinical courses in order to progress in the program. Students must earn and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.67 (B-) in both the major and the cumulative GPA in order to progress in the program.

Recommended Course Sequence

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA 2300	Statistics I (QRCO)	3
BI 2110 & BI 2130	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory I	4
BI 2120 & BI 2140	Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory II	4
PS 2010	Introduction to General Psychology	3
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
	Credits	30-33
Year Two		
NR 2100	Foundations of Professional Nursing	3
NR 2300	Biochemistry for Nurses	3
NR 2500	Health Assessment	2
NR 2700	Pathophysiology	3
BI 2340	Microbiology for Nurses	4
PS 2050	Life-Span Developmental Psychology	3
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education) ¹		4-8
Electives		4-5
	Credits	26-31

Year Three		
NR 3020	Introduction to Patient-Centered Care (DICO)	3
NR 3025	Pharmacology	3
NR 3035	Nursing Care of Children	2
NR 3052	Clinical Applications of Patient-Centered Care	4
NR 3054	Clinical Applications of Pediatric Wellness and Illness	2
NR 3057	Clinical Applications of Community Based Care	2
NR 3065	Leadership, Collaboration, and Quality in Healthcare Systems (TECO)	4
NR 3070	Health and Wellness of Older Adults (WECO)	3
NR 4020	Global Health and Population-Based Health Care (GACO)	3
	Credits	26

Summer		
NR 3059	Clinical Evidence-Based Practice in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	2
NR 3085	NCLEX-RN Success I	2
NR 3092	Evidence-Based Practice in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3
	Credits	7

Year Four		
NR 3094	Evidence-Based Practice in Medical Surgical Nursing	3
NR 4015	Maternal and Newborn Care	2
NR 4050	Nursing Leadership for Acute Care Nursing (INCO)	3
NR 4055	Clinical Applications of Evidence-Based Practice in Medical-Surgical Nursing	2
NR 4057	Clinical Application of Maternal and Newborn Care	2
NR 4060	Research Process and Evidence-Based Practice (QRCO,WRCO)	3
NR 4073	NCLEX-RN Success II	1
NR 4082	Leadership and Quality Improvement in Clinical Settings	6
Elective		5
	Credits	27
	Total Credits	120

¹ Directions should total 16-17 credits because SIDI is waived for BS Nursing.