



Andy and Barbara Gessner
College of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024-2026



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Welcome to the **University of Houston** **Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing**

The Gessner College of Nursing has been offering educational, informational, and cultural opportunities to students from many South Texas counties since 2006. Located at campuses in Sugar Land, Katy, and Houston, the Gessner College of Nursing establishes educational partnerships with both rural and urban health care facilities. The nursing faculty utilizes many learning modalities to provide exemplary education across a continuum of cultural, educational, and generational learning concepts. Approved undergraduate programs of study include the Traditional Track BSN, RN to BSN track, and Second Degree BSN track.

The undergraduate nursing student handbook contains policies specific to the Gessner College of Nursing programs that supplement those found in course syllabi, the [UH Catalog](#), and the [UH Student Handbook](#). Students are responsible for using these resources when questions arise and as guides to academic and nonacademic policies and procedures.

The information in this handbook is updated every two years; however, changes may also be made throughout the academic year. If a change occurs, an announcement will be posted on the Gessner College of Nursing website and in the Gessner College of Nursing's learning management system.

CLICK BELOW TO VIEW

[Mission and Vision Statement](#)

[Philosophy and Conceptual Framework](#)

***GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING
PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION***

**Congratulations on your decision to
advance your education.**



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW



CLICK BELOW TO VIEW

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be familiar with the mission of this program and to comply with the expectations outlined in the UH catalog, new student orientation, and the undergraduate student handbook.
2. Maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior as outlined in course syllabi.
3. Ensure that degree plan requirements are understood and contact advisors promptly to resolve any questions regarding enrollment.
4. Ensure contact information such as permanent mailing and e-mail addresses are kept current in the myUH PeopleSoft self service account.
5. Comply with registration, financial aid, and tuition and fees payment deadlines.
6. Apply for graduation by the published deadline for the semester in which they will complete degree requirements.
7. Visit the college's web page (www.uh.edu/nursing) regularly for important updates and to obtain information on course textbooks.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING GOALS (OUTCOMES)

1. Synthesize knowledge from the biological sciences, social sciences, behavioral sciences, humanities and nursing to provide appropriate culturally sensitive care to individuals, families and communities.
2. Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication, collaboration with other professionals, and develop leadership and management skills.
3. Critically analyze and apply research findings to nursing practice related to disease prevention, health promotion, illness care and restoration of health.
4. Utilize critical thinking skills to evaluate the outcomes of nursing care.
5. Serve as client advocates by providing health education and in monitoring and promoting access to cost-effective care.
6. Encourage lifelong learning and create a foundation for graduate study.
7. Integrate professional values, and ethical, moral, and legal aspects of nursing into practice in a variety of structured and unstructured settings.

STUDENT POLICIES

POLICIES

POLICIES

(FOR ALL NURSING STUDENTS)

[S100 Progression Policy](#)

[S101 Student Clinical Requirements](#)

[S104 Classroom Lab and Clinical Attendance Policy](#)

[S106 Evaluation of Faculty and Course](#)

[S108 Financial Aid Scholarship Info](#)

[S112 Inactive Status](#)

[S113 Minimal Technology Requirements](#)

[S117 Student Involvement in Curriculum](#)

[S122 Blood, Body Fluid, Hazardous Exposure](#)

[S123 Clinical Agency Policy and Procedure](#)

[S126 Classroom Expectations](#)

[S127 Student Testing Policy](#)

[S133 Non-Student Formal Complaints](#)

[S134 Preceptor Policy](#)

[S135 ADA Policy](#)

[S136 Student Professional Conduct and Demeanor](#)

[S137 Academic Jeopardy Notification](#)

[S138 Dress Code Policy](#)

[S139 Core Performance Standards](#)

[S140 Medication Administration Policy](#)

[S141 Simulation Laboratory Policy](#)

[S142 Student Grading Policy](#)

[S143 Student Library Services](#)

ADDITIONAL POLICIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

[U203 Licensure Eligibility](#)

[U204 Pre-Nursing Undergraduate Admissions Requirements for Traditional BSN Program](#)

[U208 Traditional BSN Track Admission](#)

[U209 Transfers into the Nursing Program](#)

[U210 Undergraduate Student Advising](#)



***UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC
BSN PROGRAMS***



TRADITIONAL BSN TRACK

TRADITIONAL BSN TRACK

This track is for the University of Houston student interested in nursing. The primary educational objective of the [Traditional BSN Track](#) is to produce graduates for professional nursing practice who can draw upon knowledge from biological sciences, social sciences, humanities, and nursing to critically analyze human responses to actual and potential health problems and provide appropriate nursing interventions.

Requirements for all candidates pursuing the Traditional BSN degree are listed in the [UH Catalog](#) under Gessner College of Nursing and on the Gessner [College of Nursing Traditional BSN Track web page](#).

[Pre-nursing students](#) must apply and be accepted to the Gessner College of Nursing BSN major to be considered a nursing student.

Pre-Nursing Pathway

Semester 1 Fall		Semester 2 Spring				Total	
YEAR 1	ENGL 1301	First Year Writing I	3	ENGL 1302	First Year Writing II	3	
	BIOL 2301	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	BIOL 2302	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	
	BIOL 2101	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1	BIOL 2102	Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1	
	MATH 1314	College Algebra	3	NUTR 2332	Introduction to Human Nutrition	3	
	GOVT2306	U.S & Texas Constitutions & Politics	3	MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods	3	
	SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	3	PSYC 2301	Introduction to Psychology	3	
	Semester Hours		16			16	32
Semester 1 Fall		Semester 2 Spring				Total	
YEAR 2	HIST 1301	The U.S. to 1877	3	HIST 1302	The U.S Since 1877	3	
	BIOL 2320	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors	3	Core	Language, Philosophy, and Culture	3	
	BIOL 2120	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors Lab	1	Core	Creative Arts	3	
	GOVT 2305	U.S. Govt: Congress, Pres, & Courts	3	Elective	#1000-4000 level course	3	
	CHEM 1305	Foundations of Chemistry (no lab req'd)	3				
	HDFS 2314	Introduction to Human Development and Interventions	3				
	Semester Hours		16		Semester Hours	12	28

GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Major

	Semester 1			Semester 2			Total	
JUNIOR YEAR 3	NURS 3311	Health Assessment Across the Life Span	3	NURS 3312	Fundamental Concepts of Care	3		
	NURS 3310	Professional Role Development & Practice Issues	3	NURS 3313	Fundamental Clinical	3		
	NURS 3315	Pathophysiology	3	NURS 4322	Policy and Ethics in Professional Nursing Practice	3		
	NURS 4211	Mental Health Concepts of Care	2	NURS 3314	Pharmacology	3		
	NURS 4213	Mental Health Care Clinical	2	NURS 4521	Community Health	5		
	Semester Hours		13	Semester Hours		17	30	
	May-Mester Summer *(Select One Course)			Nursing Elective	4212, 4216, 4218, 4220, or 4297	2		
			Semester Hours		2	32		
	Semester 1			Semester 2			Total	
SENIOR YEAR 4	NURS 4215	Maternal, Newborn, and Women	2	NURS 4318	High Acuity Concepts of Care	3		
	NURS 4217	Maternal, Newborn, and Women's Health Clinical	2	NURS 4419	High Acuity Clinical	4		
	NURS 4316	Med/Surg Concepts of Care	3	NURS 4219	Pediatric Concepts of Care	2		
	NURS 4417	Med/Surg Clinical	4	NURS 4221	Pediatric Clinical	2		
	NURS 4314	Nursing Research	3	NURS 4312	^Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	3		
	Semester Hours		14	Semester Hours		14	28	
							120	

*One nursing elective required for degree

^WID Course

RN TO BSN TRACK



RN TO BSN TRACK

This track is for the registered nurse with an associate's degree or diploma in nursing. The primary educational objective of the [RN to BSN Track](#) is to increase career and educational opportunities available to registered nurses in the University's service region. Graduates of the program will have a broader understanding of the nursing profession and will bring that understanding to the practice of nursing in their places of employment. Graduates will be prepared to assume some leadership and management roles.

The requirements that apply to all candidates for Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree are listed in the [UH Catalog](#) under Gessner College of Nursing and on the Gessner College of Nursing [RN to BSN web page](#).

RN TO BSN TRACK REQUIREMENTS			
Core Curriculum Requirements	Component Area	Hours Required	TCCNS
	Communication	6	^ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302
	Mathematics	3	MATH 1314
	Life & Physical Sciences	6	BIOL 1322 and CHEM 1305
	Language, Philosophy, & Culture	3	Select
	Creative Arts	3	Select
	American History	6	HIST 1301 and HIST 1302
	Government/Political Science	6	GOVT 2306 and GOVT 2305
	Social/Behavioral Sciences	3	*SOCI 1301
Component Area Option	6	^MATH 1342 and ^WID in nursing major	
Nursing Field of Study	Content Areas	Hours Required	TCCNS
	Anatomy & Physiology	8	^BIOL 2301/2101 or 2401 and BIOL 2302/2102 or 2402
	Microbiology	4	■BIOL 2320/2120 or BIOL 2420 (or BIOL 2321/2121 or 2421)
	Chemistry	4	*Any 4 SCH Course including Lab
	Nutrition	3	■BIOL 1322 or HECO 1322
	Psychology	6	■HDFS or PSYC 2314 and PSYC 2301
	Mathematics	3	^Math 1342
Advanced Placement Hours	Upper Level BSN Curriculum		
	Students will be given 33 hours of credit for successful completion of nursing courses from Associate Degree in Nursing or diploma program & subsequent RN licensure. Field of Study		

RN TO BSN NURSING CURRICULUM		
Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
NURS 3310	Professional Role Development and Practice Issues	3
NURS 3311	Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 3315	Pathophysiology	3
NURS 4312	^Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	3
NURS 4314	Nursing Research	3
NURS 4322	Policy and Ethics in Professional Nursing Practice	3
NURS 4520	Concept Integration in Patient Care Management	5
NURS 4521	Community Health Nursing	5
NURS 4212, 4216, 4218, 4220, 4297	*Nursing Elective May-Mester Summer (Select one course)	2
TOTAL		30

*One nursing elective required for degree
 ^WID Course

SECOND DEGREE BSN TRACK

SECOND DEGREE BSN TRACK

The primary objective of the [Second Degree BSN Track](#) is to produce graduates for professional nursing practice who can draw upon knowledge from the biological sciences, social sciences, humanities and nursing to critically analyze human responses to actual and potential health problems and provide appropriate nursing interventions.

The Second Degree bachelors program is a twelve-month intensive full-time program for people holding bachelors or masters degrees in other fields who want to become registered nurses (RNs). This program is designed to facilitate a career change for the more mature and experienced student.

The requirements that apply to all candidates for Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing are listed in the [UH Catalog](#) under Gessner College of Nursing and on the Gessner College of Nursing [Second Degree BSN web page](#).

SECOND DEGREE BSN COURSE SCHEDULE

Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
Semester 1 - Spring		
NURS 3230	Nursing Professional Role I	2
NURS 3247	Pharmacology for Collaborative Nursing Practice	2
NURS 3440	Introduction to Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	4
NURS 3631	Nursing Process for Symptom Management	6
NURS 3633	Clinical Nursing Practice I	6
Semester 2 - Summer		
NURS 4212, 4216, 4220, 4297	May Mester *Select Topics in Nursing (Two-week course following close of Spring Term) (Select one course)	2
NURS 3337	Reading and Interpreting Scientific Literature	3
NURS 3634	Clinical Nursing Practice II	6
NURS 3636	Nursing Process for Collaborative Practice I	6
NURS 4322	Policy and Ethics in Professional Nursing Practice	3
Semester 3 - Fall		
NURS 4312	^Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing Practice	3
NURS 3735	Clinical Nursing Practice III	7
NURS 3737	Nursing Process for Collaborative Practice II	7
NURS 4314	Nursing Research	3
TOTAL		60

*One nursing elective required for degree

^WID Course

FACULTY INFORMATION

[Click here](#) to visit the Gessner College of Nursing website faculty page and learn more about undergraduate faculty, including their qualifications, professional expertise, clinical and research interests, publications, and contact information.



ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The policy of the University of Houston (UH) is to ensure equal opportunity in all its educational programs and activities, and all terms and conditions of employment without regard to age, race, color, disability, religion, national origin, ethnicity, military status, genetic information, sex (including gender and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or status, or gender expression, except where such a distinction is required by law. Employees, students, and visitors to campus with questions and/or complaints regarding discrimination, or sexual misconduct (such as sexual violence) under Title IX, may contact the Title IX Coordinator for University of Houston or the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The Title IX Coordinator as well as the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator for UH and can be contacted at:

Rebecca Lake

[Title IX Coordinator](#)

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