NURSING

Associate in Nursing Degree

Licensed Practical Nurse Certificate - Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attend this program can be found on the following https://dacc.nmsu.edu/gainfulemployment.

The Nursing program at DACC affords students the opportunity to become Licensed Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses and members of a respected and rewarding profession. Nursing is a dynamic and exciting discipline offering not only the rewarding experiences of helping others achieve their health care goals, but also enabling the nurse to become a part of the rapidly advancing health delivery system of the future.

Upon completion of all prerequisite courses and acceptance into the nursing program, four semesters of study prepare the new graduate for a career as an entry-level generalist in Licensed Practical Nursing or Registered Nursing. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN licensure exams and become licensed Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses anywhere in the United States. Students should note, however, that program completion does not in and of itself guarantee licensure, which is a function of the various state boards of nursing, nor does it guarantee employment.

The DACC nursing program philosophy embraces the concepts of caring, health, and wellness. Faculty assist adult learners with achievement of their maximum educational potential through exposure to a variety of teaching and evaluation methods. Special emphasis is placed upon the nursing process, critical-thinking, evidence-based practice, patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, safety, professionalism, nursing informatics, and the evolving teaching-learning process.

Accreditation/Approval

The DACC Nursing program is approved for operation by the New Mexico Board of Nursing. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Board directly:

New Mexico Board of Nursing
6301 Indian School Road NE, Suite 710
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Phone: (505) 841-8340

1 Please refer to the DACC Nursing program website for more information regarding the accreditation and/or approval status of the Nursing program.

Categories of Essential Functions

In order to participate in the Nursing Program, the student must be capable of performing the following:

Observation

• Visually discriminate incremental readings on various medical equipment
• Visually discriminate between different colored objects
• Discriminate between various auditory stimuli

Communication

• Communicate effectively in English using verbal, nonverbal and written formats
• Read and interpret the English language without assistance
• Communicate effectively via electronic means, including computers and “smart” devices

Motor

• Stand for long periods of time
• Lift 50 pounds
• Perform patient care procedures with manual dexterity

Intellectual

• Collect, interpret, and integrate information

Special Admission Criteria

As a professional educational program, the Nursing Program is a limited-entry program. To be considered for admission, students are required to successfully complete:

1. all prerequisites,
2. the designated entrance exam, and
3. submitting all materials required for the student selection process.

Information on requirements, transfers, and deadlines for applications are available on the Nursing program website, or by calling (575) 527-7735.

Prior to the first day of classes, each student must submit documentation of the following: current immunizations, TB test, American Heart Association CPR for Healthcare Providers, background clearance for Healthcare Providers and drug screening. Additional information regarding specific requirements is available from the Nursing Program office.

Nursing Program Prerequisites

Prior to applying to the Nursing Program, students must be admitted to DACC. Students are also responsible for understanding all of the information in the related-requirement science courses of Anatomy and Physiology I and II, regardless of when these courses were taken. In the event that they were taken more than seven years prior to admission to the Nursing program, these courses must be repeated for credit.

Security Background Check

Prospective students are required to complete and pass a security background check in order to take clinical courses. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the degree and gaining a nursing license or employment in the field.

Requirements to Remain in the Nursing Program

In order to remain in the program, students must receive a C or better in each technical course attempted.

Course Fees

In addition to tuition, a fee of $250 is charged for each of the following courses:
NURS 136. Foundations of Nursing Practice
6 Credits (4+6P)
This course will introduce the nursing student to foundational theoretical concepts of professional nursing practice, the nursing process, and foundational nursing skills. It includes developmental concepts related to clients across the lifespan. Clinical experiences in the simulation lab, long-term care, the community, and rehabilitation settings will provide the student with the opportunity to apply learned skills to provide total care to meet needs of one adult client and to develop care planning skills related to actual problems. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 134, NURS 136 lab & NURS 137 or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 147. Adult Health I
6 Credits (4+6P)
This course focuses on application of the nursing process and theoretical concepts of care for adults with commonly occurring health problems. Selected clinical learning experiences in the simulation lab, acute care, and community settings will allow the student to continue development of: prioritization skills, proficiency in performance of nursing skills, collaborative skills with clients, families, peers and health care team members, care planning skills related to patient actual, psychosocial, and potential problems in the delivery of total nursing care to meet needs of one adult client. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147 lab, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 130. Foundations of Pharmacology
3 Credits (3)
This course provides the nursing student with an introduction to the foundations of pharmacology including: science of drug action, principles of medication administration, accurate calculation of drug doses, medication therapy across the lifespan, application of medications to treat health alterations, normal and adverse responses by the client to medication therapy, medication safety, medication regulation, national patient safety goals, and appropriate nursing interventions to achieve the desired goals of medication therapy. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 147 & NURS 149.

NURS 134. Foundation of Nursing Skills and Assessment
3 Credits (1+6P)
This course provides nursing students with introductory nursing knowledge related to performance of nursing skills and assessment including: techniques of fundamental nursing care, basic and intermediate nursing skills, and foundational physical assessment techniques associated with care across the lifespan. Open to students who have been accepted into the nursing program. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 136 & NURS 137 or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 136. Foundations of Nursing Practice
6 Credits (4+6P)
This course will introduce the nursing student to foundational theoretical concepts of professional nursing practice, the nursing process, and foundational nursing skills. It includes developmental concepts related to clients across the lifespan. Clinical experiences in the simulation lab, long-term care, the community, and rehabilitation settings will provide the student with the opportunity to apply learned skills to provide total care to meet needs of one adult client and to develop care planning skills related to actual problems. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 134, NURS 136 lab & NURS 137 or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 147. Adult Health I
6 Credits (4+6P)
This course focuses on application of the nursing process and theoretical concepts of care for adults with commonly occurring health problems. Selected clinical learning experiences in the simulation lab, acute care, and community settings will allow the student to continue development of: prioritization skills, proficiency in performance of nursing skills, collaborative skills with clients, families, peers and health care team members, care planning skills related to patient actual, psychosocial, and potential problems in the delivery of total nursing care to meet needs of one adult client. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147 lab, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 149. Mental Health Nursing
3 Credits (2+3P)
This course will allow the nursing student to develop skills necessary to provide nursing care to clients with mental health problems in various health care settings including: common mental health disorders, psychosocial dysfunction, psychosocial safety/substance abuse issues, violence, suicide, restraints, developmental age related pathophysiology, psychopharmacology, cultural/religious considerations, grief/loss, promotion of mental health, and therapeutic communication. Selected clinical learning experiences in the simulation lab, acute care, and community settings will allow the student to develop ability to develop: proficiency in performance of nursing skills, collaborative skills with clients, families, peers and health care team members, care planning skills related to patient actual, psychosocial, and potential problems in the delivery of total nursing care to meet needs of one client across the life span with acute/chronic mental health needs. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of this course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147, & NURS 149L, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 137. Care of Geriatric Patient
3 Credits (3)
This course will introduce the nursing student to foundational concepts of age-appropriate/specific care of the older adult who represents the largest population of individuals placing demands on the healthcare system. It includes basic and complex concepts and issues related to care of the older client across the care continuum, provision of cost-effective care in a resource sparse environment. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the nursing program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 134 & NURS 136 or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 226. Adult Health II
6 Credits (6)
This course will allow the nursing student to develop skills necessary to provide nursing care to clients across the lifespan with acute/chronic mental health needs. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 236. Nursing Preceptorship - Adult Health III
6 Credits (6)
This course will allow the nursing student to develop skills necessary to provide nursing care to clients across the lifespan with acute/chronic mental health needs. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 237. Nursing Preceptorship - Adult Health IV
6 Credits (6)
This course will allow the nursing student to develop skills necessary to provide nursing care to clients across the lifespan with acute/chronic mental health needs. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 238. Nursing Preceptorship - Adult Health V
6 Credits (6)
This course will allow the nursing student to develop skills necessary to provide nursing care to clients across the lifespan with acute/chronic mental health needs. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 130, NURS 147, & NURS 149, or permission of the Program Director.
NURS 224. Maternal Child Nursing
5 Credits (4+3P)
This course provides the intermediate nursing student with an in-depth review of care of the childbearing woman, family structures and roles, and nursing care of the child from birth through adolescence. Emphasis includes the care of pre-partum, intra-partum and postpartum clients, the neonate and health deviations in pediatric clients. Clinical experiences in the simulation lab, the community, and acute care settings will provide the student with the opportunity to apply learned skills to provide total care to meet needs of up to two adult, neonatal, or pediatric clients and to apply care planning skills related to actual, psychosocial and potential problems. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 224 lab, NURS 235, & NURS 236, or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 226. Adult Health II
6 Credits (4+6P)
This course focuses on application of nursing process and theoretical concepts of care for adults with complex health alterations. Selected clinical learning experiences in the simulation lab, acute care, and community settings will allow the student to apply: prioritization skills, maintain proficiency in performance of nursing skills, collaborative skills with clients, families, peers and health care team members, and care planning skills related to patient actual, psychosocial, and potential problems in the delivery of nursing care to meet needs of three adult clients. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program may enroll in this course. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 224, NURS 226 lab, & NURS 235 or permission of the Program Director.

NURS 235. Nursing Leadership and Management
1 Credit (1)
This course introduces the intermediate nursing student to professional practice principles of nursing leadership and management including: health policy and politics, fiscal management & budgeting, conflict management, decision making, interdisciplinary practice, working with teams, roles in disaster planning and management, application of standards of care to risk management, organization of care delivery, health care systems, processes, and practice environments. May be repeated up to 1 credits. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to Community Colleges campuses only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 224, NURS 226 & Clinical Or Permission of the Program Director.

NURS 236. Nursing Preceptorship - Adult Health III
6 Credits (2+12P)
This course is the final course involving care of the patient with acute or chronic illness. It focuses on care of patients with complex or multi-system problems allowing the graduating nursing student to discuss and apply all the skills learned in previous nursing courses. After successfully passing the HESI exam, students have clinical practice with preceptor in various health care settings. Selected clinical learning experiences in the simulation lab, acute care, and community settings will allow the student to: organize care of a group of clients, maintain proficiency in performance of nursing skills, collaborate with clients, families, peers and health care team members, and support care planning skills related to patient actual, psychosocial, and potential problems in the delivery of nursing care to meet needs of the preceptors group of clients. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both the lecture and lab sections of the course. Only students who have been admitted to the nursing program and have successfully completed all level 1, 2 and 3 nursing courses may enroll in this course. Clinical may include inpatient or outpatient care, days, evenings, nights, or weekend experiences. Students are required to work the preceptors assigned schedule. Restricted to: NUR majors. Restricted to: Community Colleges only.
Prerequisite(s): Admission into the Nursing Program.
Corequisite(s): NURS 201, NCLEX Review or permission of the Program Director.

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