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The USI College of Nursing and Health Professions promotes excellence in its academic programs, faculty, and students, and demonstrates leadership in health care education, research, practice, and community service. The College of Nursing and Health Professions provides students opportunities to prepare for a personally satisfying and financially rewarding health care career.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions offers the following health professions certificate and degree programs:

Dental Assisting
Certificate
Associate degree

Dental Hygiene
Bachelor's degree

Health Services and Health Administration
Bachelor's degree
Master's degree

Nursing
Bachelor's degree in Nursing
Second Degree
RN-BSN
RN-MSN
Master's degree in Nursing
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Family Nurse Practitioner

Nursing Education
Nursing Management and Leadership

Food and Nutrition
Bachelor's degree with specialties
Dietetics
Food Service Management
Nutrition and Wellness

Occupational Therapy
Combined bachelor's degree and master's degree

Occupational Therapy Assistant
Associate degree

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences
Associate degree in Radiologic Technology
Bachelor's degree with specialties
Clinical Education
General Sonography
Magnetic Resonance and Computed Tomography Management
Radiologic Technology
Vascular Sonography

Respiratory Therapy
Associate degree

The College of Nursing and Health Professions offers the following minors:

Gerontology
Health Services
Nutrition
Public Health
Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness

The College offers a wide array of on-campus, independent study, and online health professions continuing education and specialized certificate programs. A complete listing and schedule of offerings can be viewed on the College Web site <http://health.usi.edu>.

Accrediting organizations representing the profession and/or appropriate state governmental agencies are identified with program information. Program graduates routinely excel on state and national licensing/registry exams and are heavily recruited by health care employers.

College faculty are academically prepared, experienced practitioners who are licensed, registered, and/or certified members of the professions in which they teach. The col-

lege provides a caring atmosphere in which students, faculty, and community health care professionals work together to optimize personal and professional development. The college provides educational experiences which prepare students to become competent practitioners and apply for licensure, registration, or certification in their fields.

Clinical Laboratory and Affiliates

The clinical laboratory located in the Day Learning Center provides students with diverse challenging learning activities. Computerized simulated learning activities prepare students for critical thinking and therapeutic intervention in their clinical practices. A state-of-the-art dental clinic provides high quality learning activities for dental students.

A wide variety of clinical facilities are utilized in the educational programs of the college. These facilities include Deaconess Hospitals, St. Mary's Medical Center, Health South Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital, Evansville State Hospital, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, Evansville-Vanderburgh County Public Health Department, Evansville Association for Retarded Citizens, Visiting Nurse Association of Southwestern Indiana, Rehabilitation Center, Planned Parenthood, Southwestern Indiana Adult Mental Health Center, Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging, senior citizens centers, dental offices, physicians' offices, day care centers, nursing homes, extended care facilities, and the University of Southern Indiana dental clinic. A complete listing of clinical affiliates is located in the college office.

Admission and Progression Requirements

Students seeking admission to programs in the College of Nursing and Health Professions must apply for admission to the University and submit a separate application to the program of their choice. To ensure the highest quality of student learning experiences, admission is competitive and limited. Students meeting academic requirements must be in good health; eligible for licensure, certification, or registration; and capable of meeting clinical practice requirements. Acceptance into a clinical program is contingent upon an acceptable drug screen and criminal record check. A felony may affect a graduate's eligibility to sit for professional licensure/certification/registration. Additional information about the admission process and timeline is listed on each program's Web pages.

Minimum grade requirements for major and other selected courses are identified in student handbooks.

Additional information regarding admission criteria and progression requirements is listed in the individual program descriptions that follow and in program student handbooks. Program student handbooks are available online.

Financial Assistance

A number of scholarships are designated specifically for students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. These scholarships are in addition to the scholarships and other financial assistance that is available for all USI students.

Advising

Each student is assigned an academic advisor and is expected to confer with the advisor prior to course registration. Meeting degree requirements is each student's responsibility. The College of Nursing and Health Professions major and minor program requirements are revised periodically. The revised requirements are announced to students enrolled in major courses and published on the College of Nursing and Health Professions Web pages.

Application for Degree and Diploma Form

A degree application and diploma form must be filed by students completing course requirements one semester prior to the semester in which the program will be completed. This application may be obtained from the College of Nursing and Health Professions office or online and should be returned to the student's academic advisor for review and approval.

Nursing

Nursing as an art and science is based on scientific, aesthetic, and ethical knowledge. The professional nurse diagnoses and treats human responses to illness, helps restore wellness, promotes health, and brings comfort to the dying patient. Caring, commitment, critical thinking, and practice competence are characteristics of the USI nurse.

Graduates of the USI nursing program are employed in hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, clinics, research facilities, and numerous other community settings. Clinical specialty areas include medical, surgical, maternal-child, and psychiatric nursing. Additional education and experience provide career opportunities in teaching, research, management, and independent practice.

The baccalaureate nursing program is designed to prepare the professional nurse as a generalist to plan, implement,

and evaluate health care for individuals, families, and groups in institutional and community settings.

Completion of the baccalaureate provides the foundation for professional practice and graduate study in nursing. Students completing and meeting the requirements for graduation from the baccalaureate nursing program will be eligible to sit for the registered nurse licensure exam.

In addition to classroom instruction and simulated learning activities, clinical learning occurs in local hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, clinics, and a number of other agencies. Students gain experience with clients in medical, surgical, psychiatric, maternity, pediatric, gerontology, oncology, operating room, critical care, emergency room, post-anesthesia, and community settings. Clinical practice prepares students for employment in these areas following graduation.

The nursing program is accredited by the Indiana State Board of Nursing and by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, Suite 530, Washington D.C. 20036, 202/887-6791.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the USI baccalaureate nursing program requires admission to the University and a separate application to the nursing program. Admission is competitive and limited by the availability of instructional resources and clinical learning sites.

Students must have a minimum grade of C or better in BIOL 121, BIOL 122, BIOL 272, CHEM 141, NUTR 376, ENG 101, ENG 201, CMST 101 or CMST 107, PSY 201, and SOC 121 (or C-2 category course) to be admitted/enrolled in nursing program courses. Students earning less than a "C" grade in two sciences and/or nutrition courses will not be eligible to be admitted or enrolled in nursing courses.

All students selected for admission to the nursing program must also meet clinical agency requirements, present evidence of satisfactory health status, be eligible for RN licensure, and capable of fulfilling clinical practice requirements. Admission to the nursing program is based on academic qualifications and is contingent upon a satisfactory criminal record check and drug screening. The number of students admitted to the nursing program is limited by the availability of instructional resources and clinical learning sites.

Early admission, standard admission, and second degree admission are available for prospective nursing students.

Early Admission

Early admission to the undergraduate nursing program may occur prior to entrance to the University for high school students with outstanding high school achievement and high SAT/ACT scores. Maintenance of an early admission status is contingent on meeting the requirements listed.

To qualify for early admission, students must have both a high school GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale and standardized exam score which is a combined SAT of 1200 (without writing component), or combined SAT score of 1800 (with writing component), or ACT of 26.

Standard Admission

A review of the admission application occurs after completion of 33 hours of required courses (see the course sequence for the specific courses which are considered). Students admitted to the nursing program begin coursework in the following spring semester.

To be considered for admission to the nursing program, students must have completed the 33 college credit hours identified for the first-year courses (or their equivalent) in the nursing curriculum. Admission to the program is competitive and the selection of applicants is based upon the following criteria:

GPA in required courses; and standardized exam score (a combined SAT of 1000 without writing component, or combined SAT score of 1500 with writing component, or ACT of 21 is recommended. For students who have been out of high school three years or more, a pre-admission standardized nursing exam may be substituted for the SAT or ACT).

In the event that applicants have equivalent qualifications, the written essay and participation in community activities will be considered.

Second Degree Admission

The second degree option is offered to potential students who have already completed a baccalaureate in another field. Admission to the BSN program as a second degree student is competitive and the selection of applicants is based on the following criteria: GPA in required courses and standardized exam score.

USI Baccalaureate Nursing Program Curriculum

Year One (33 credit hours)

Fall Semester	Credits
ENG 101	3
BIOL 121	3
CHEM 101/107	3
Math	4
History	3
TOTAL HOURS	16

Spring Semester	Credits
ENG 201	3
BIOL 122	3
PSY 201	3
Chem 141	4
Arts	3
Ped	1
TOTAL HOURS	17

Year Two (34 credit hours)

Fall Semester	Credits
Nutrition	3
BIOL 272	3
HP 115	2
Global Com	3
Humanities	3
Social Behavior	3
TOTAL HOURS	17

Spring Semester	Credits
N247 Intro to Prof Nrsg	5
N247 Health Assessment	3
HP 302	3
HP 456	3
Humanities	3
TOTAL HOURS	17

Year Three (31 credit hours)

Fall Semester	Credits
N353 Nursing Research	3
N356 Pharmacology	2
N357 Intro to Pt Care	3
N358 Adult Health I	7
TOTAL HOURS	15

Spring Semester	Credits
N361 Elders and Families	4
N363 Mental Health Nrsg	4
N364 Children and Families	4
N368 Adult Health II	4
TOTAL HOURS	16

Year Four (30 credit hours)

Fall Semester	Credits
N456 Women and Families	4
N455 Community Health	4
N478 Adult Health III	8
TOTAL HOURS	16

Spring Semester	Credits
N488 Management in the Care of Adults	7
N498 Internship	4
N467 Professional Issues	3
TOTAL HOURS	14

All nursing courses with the exception of NURS 353, NURS 356, and NURS 467 include either seminar hours (2 seminar hours = 1 credit hour) or clinical experiences (3 clinical hours = 1 credit hour).

RN-BSN PROGRAM

Registered nurses with an associate degree or diploma may apply for admission to the program and earn a baccalaureate in nursing by completing the required University Core Curriculum and nursing courses. The nursing courses required for the RN-BSN completion option are provided through a combination of technologies, including Internet delivery, video streaming, and e-mail. The flexibility of the RN-BSN option gives nurses the opportunity to complete the course requirements in their own home and on their own schedule with minimal costs.

The curriculum is built upon a foundation of biological, physical, and social sciences with acknowledgement of previously learned content. No further testing of prior knowledge is required if a nurse holds a valid RN license in good standing in the current state of employment. Additional information about the RN-BSN program is available at health.usi.edu.

Admission Requirements

The requirements for admission to the RN-BSN program include:

University Admission

- Completion of the University application;
- documentation of completed degrees; and
- documentation of current immunizations.

RN-BSN Program Admission

Completion of an associate degree or diploma program in nursing with a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale in previous academic work; unencumbered RN license; completion of the USI Nursing Program application; submission of official transcripts from all colleges

and universities attended; employed by or have access to a health care work environment to complete course projects; two years of recent RN experience prior to application to the University preferred; and for non-native speakers of English, a score of 550 or higher (213 on the computer based exam) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

RN-BSN Curriculum

A maximum of 64 credit hours may be transferred from community colleges (36 hours of nursing and 28 hours of non-nursing courses). Credit hours remaining include 31 hours of University Core Courses and 33 hours of nursing courses.

Required Nursing Courses (33 credit hours)

N351 (Transitions)	3
N247 (Assessment)	3 (test out available)
N353 (Research)	3
N455 (Community)	4 (test out available)
N488 (Management)	7 (test out available)
N467 (Issues)	3
N492 (Clinical Synthesis)	4 (national certification may apply to this course)
Nursing/HP Electives.	6

RN-MSN Program

The RN-MSN program is designed for associate degree or diploma-prepared registered nurses interested in graduate nursing education and preparation for an advanced nursing practice role. The program builds on the student's prior learning and requires three years of practice experience. Students in consultation with a faculty advisor develop a plan of study that is based on prior learning and the student's selected graduate study major.

The program of study includes the completion of required undergraduate courses, including all non-nursing courses, an advanced practice nursing role transition course (NURS 451), and selected fourth-year clinical nursing courses. Students, after successful completion of the required undergraduate courses, are provisionally admitted to the graduate nursing program. After successful completion of 12 hours of graduate course credits, credit for the validated undergraduate courses is posted and students are awarded a BSN degree. Students at this point in their program of study are granted full admission into the graduate program. After successful completion of the remaining required graduate nursing courses, students are awarded an MSN degree. Additional information

about the RN-MSN program is available at health.usi.edu.

Admission Requirements

- Completion of an associate degree or diploma from an accredited program in nursing;
- three years of current clinical experience as a registered nurse;
- unencumbered RN license;
- completion of a USI Graduate Nursing Program application;
- cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in previous academic work; and
- completion of a USI undergraduate admission application.

After completion of the undergraduate portion of the program, to be considered for admission to the graduate level courses of the RN-MSN program, the applicant must submit to the Office of Graduate Studies:

- A completed USI Graduate Application Form;
- a \$25 non-refundable graduate application fee made payable to USI; and
- one official transcript from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended other than USI.

Transcripts and other educational records are official if the issuing institution sends them directly to the Office of Graduate Studies. Failure to submit official transcripts from every institution will delay admission. Course work from one institution reported as transfer credit on another school's transcript does not constitute an official transcript.

RN-MSN Curriculum

A maximum of 64 credit hours may be transferred from community colleges (36 hours of nursing and 28 hours of non-nursing courses). Credit hours remaining include 31 hours of University Core Courses and 33 hours of nursing courses.

Nursing Courses (23 credit hours)

N451 (Transitions)	3
N247 (Assessment)	3 (test out available)
N455 (Community)	4 (test out available)
N488 (Management)	7 (test out available)
Nursing/HP course electives.	6

Departmental exam credit is awarded for 10 credit hours upon completion of 12 graduate level nursing courses

N353 (Research)	3
N467 (Issues)	3
N492 (Clinical Synthesis)	4

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

246 Introduction to Professional Nursing (5)

This course introduces students to essential characteristics of professional nursing practice in today's health care system and the interconnected global community. Concepts to be explored include the history and theoretical basis of the nursing profession, the profession as part of a wider health care community and delivery system, professional communication, self-understanding and self-care as means to promote health and wellness of self and others. An introduction to the responsibility of self-directed, life-long learning and evidence based practice is included. An emphasis will be placed on the complexity and holism of culturally sensitive nursing care in relation to the diversity of patients. Prereq: 50 hours of required non-nursing courses including all science courses. Sp

247 Health Assessment (3)

This course focuses on beginning skill development in the psychosocial and physical assessment of the health status of individuals across the lifespan. Emphasis is on the collection of subjective and objective data, physical examinations and documentation. The importance of culturally sensitive care and evidence-based practice are integrated into all aspects of patient assessment. Prereq: 50 hours of required non-nursing courses including all science courses. Sp

351 Transition to Professional Nursing (3)

This course prepares the associate or diploma nurse graduate for didactic and clinical learning experiences within the USI baccalaureate nursing program. Program philosophy, conceptual framework, and outcomes are discussed in relation to contemporary professional nursing practice and education. Emphasis is placed on the critical thinking skills, knowledge, expertise, and personal and professional development required of nurses in today's diverse health care settings. Students explore health promotion and assessment, health care community and team membership, nursing theory, nursing research, and quality management systems. Students participate as co-learners with faculty and each other. No Prereq. F, Sp, Su

353 Nursing Research (3)

This course focuses on preparation of the student as a consumer of research. As consumers of research, students learn quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and perform critical review of the research process. Steps of the research process are included with emphasis on critique of published nursing research and research accessed via the Internet. Prereq: NURS 357. F, Sp, Su

356 Pharmacology for Nurses (2)

This course provides the student with an introduction to pharmacotherapeutics, safe administration of medications, and medications related to the care of patients with specific disorders. Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamics, pharmacogenetics, principles of medication administration, medication terminology, systems of measurement and conversion, and medication calculations are discussed. Drug classifications, actions, side effects, adverse effects, and nursing implications of medication administration are presented. Use of the nursing process to safely administer medications and develop patient education plans is also emphasized. Prereq: NURS 357. F

357 Introduction to Patient Care (3)

This course explores concepts essential to nursing practice with a focus on nursing interventions. An emphasis is placed on the development of knowledge, competence, communication, and caring with the nurse's professional role. Through class and clinical laboratory experiences, students learn to apply principles of safe and effective nursing care. Prereq: NURS 246 and NURS 247. F

358 Nursing Care of Adults I (7)

This course focuses on the application of the nursing process and further develops cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills necessary to provide nursing care for adults within a legal, ethical, and culturally sensitive framework. Students will integrate concepts from the sciences, liberal arts and nursing theory as a basis for their nursing practice. Evidence-based practice will be the foundation for providing care to patients on the continuum of illness and wellness. Prereq: NURS 357.

361 Care of Elders and Families (4)

This course focuses on the integration of theories of aging, standards of practice, cultural influences, and pertinent public policy into the assessment of and interventions for older adults. Chronicity, caregiving, and end of life issues are included. Emphasis will be placed on utilization of evidenced based practice. Prereq: third year fall nursing courses. Sp

363 Mental Health Nursing (4)

This course focuses on therapeutic interaction, emphasizing the communication process and the concept of professional caring. Patterns of human responses associated with mental health and mental illness are examined across the lifespan. Within this framework, human responses to mental health and illness are identified. Students practice the therapeutic use of self, and implement culturally sensitive mental health nursing interventions in multiple clinical settings while utilizing methods of evidenced-based practice. Prereq: third year fall nursing courses. Sp

364 Care of Children and Families (4)

This course focuses on the care of the child and adolescent specific to developmental levels. Age specific culturally sensitive health promotion issues and health problems through theoretical and clinical application are addressed. The course emphasizes the interrelationship of pathophysiology, clinical symptoms and complications, disease specific assessment, risk factors, nursing process, collaborative management, and expected outcomes. Emphasis will be placed on evidenced based practice. Prereq: third year fall nursing courses. Sp

368 Nursing Care of the Adult II (4)

This course focuses on the utilization of the nursing process as a basis for providing nursing care to adult patients in acute and community based settings. The role of the nurse as a collaborator in the health care team will be emphasized. Students will apply concepts from the sciences, liberal arts, and nursing theory as a basis for their nursing practice. Students will examine culturally sensitive human responses along the continuum of illness and wellness utilizing evidenced based practice. Prereq: third year fall nursing courses. Sp

451 Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice (3)

Preparation of the associate or diploma nurse graduates with clinical experience to enter the advanced practice graduate nurse program is emphasized. The program's philosophy, conceptual framework, and objectives are discussed in relation to contemporary advanced nursing practice and education. Students explore health promotion and assessment, health care community and team membership, nursing theory, nursing research, and quality management systems. Prereq: permission of instructor and/or advisor required. F, Sp, Su.

455 Community Health Nursing (4)

This course emphasizes population-focused, community/public health nursing practice. Diverse multicultural, social, and environmental factors that influence population health are studied. Students focus on health promotion, disease prevention, health protection, health teaching and counseling, and coordination of care as the nursing process is applied across the lifespan to patients with multidimensional health needs in a variety of community settings. Prereq: third year spring nursing courses. F

456 Nursing of Women and Families (4)

This course explores reproduction, pregnancy, selected women's health issues and newborn care through theoretical and clinical application. Individual family and cultural influences are explored as they relate to nursing care of the family unit. Specialized assessment techniques are integrated through clinical practice. Delegation and prioritization of nursing care are emphasized and integrated throughout the course.

Prereq: third year spring nursing courses. F

467 Professional Nursing and Health Care Issues (3)

This course examines issues related to professional nursing and health care from a historical, economic, legal/ethical, global, political, multidisciplinary and multicultural framework. Evidence based strategies designed to influence organizational, institutional, and governmental decisions impacting nursing and health care are discussed. Topics for discussion are selected based upon current issues and trends in nursing practice, nursing education, and health care. Prereq: fourth year fall nursing courses. Sp, Su

478 Nursing Care of Adults III (8)

This course focuses on human responses to complex, multidimensional health problems of adult patients. The student will study care of the patient across the continuum of acute illness, chronic illness, and rehabilitation. The role of the nurse as coordinator of care will be emphasized. The course examines the interrelationships of pathophysiology, clinical symptoms and complications, risk factors, nursing process, collaborative management, and expected outcomes. Prereq: third year spring nursing courses. F

470 Special Topics in Nursing (1-3)

This course provides the opportunity for analysis and synthesis of concepts and research related to special topics in nursing and health care.

472 Home Health Nursing (3)

Review concepts pertinent to general nursing practice within the home environment. Theoretical framework relevant to home care for clients using a multidisciplinary approach are examined. Prereq: permission of instructor.

474 Perioperative Nursing (3)

Explores the role of the perioperative nurse focusing on intraoperative, preoperative and postanesthesia nursing care through various teaching methodologies including clinical activities with preceptor. Prereq: permission of instructor.

476 Cardiovascular Surgical Nursing (3)

Advanced knowledge and research concerning the care of patients undergoing cardiac surgery is presented. The collaborative role of the nurse while participating in the care of the critically ill cardiac surgery patient is emphasized.

482 Oncology Nursing (3)

Advanced knowledge of adult oncology nursing is presented. The dimensions of prevention and early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliation, rehabilitation, and survivorship are studied with diagnostic evaluation, classification, staging, and various treatment modalities for a selected range of malignancies.

484 Health Care Outcomes: Integrating Nursing Case Management and Disease Management (3)

This course investigates the concepts of case management focusing on the policy, economic and care factors that influence positive outcomes for individuals or groups of individuals. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of nursing with case management and disease management concepts.

488 Nursing Management in the Care of Adults (7)

This course involves the application and synthesis of evidence based nursing knowledge within the broader context of the professional role. Culturally sensitive care of adult patients with complex and multidimensional health problems is emphasized. Students will analyze the concept of nursing management and leadership within various health care scenarios and settings to discern the impact of professional nursing on patient outcomes and overall quality of care. Prereq: fourth year fall nursing courses. Sp

492 Clinical Synthesis (4)

This course provides the RN-BSN student with a concentrated clinical experience designed to expand and synthesize nursing knowledge and evidence-based practice. Students will refine their clinical skills as a critical thinker possessing knowledge and communication skills to problem solve. Students will enhance their clinical skills while effectively using resources and integrating evidence-based practice to provide quality and cost-effective health care in varying environment. No Prereq. F, Sp, Su.

498 Internship in Professional Nursing (4)

This course provides the students with a concentrated clinical experience designed to synthesize nursing knowledge and evidence-based practice. Students will refine leadership and management skills as they function as integral members of the health care team. Students provide and coordinate direct care for groups of patients in an approved clinical setting. Seminar discussion topics will be related to current clinical practice issues. Prereq: NURS 467 and NURS 488, Sp

* Total course hours; didactic credit hours/clinical

Dental Assisting

The dental assistant works as a valued member of the dental health team and assists the dentist in performing professional duties in the operatory, laboratory, and business office. The student becomes competent in chairside assisting, laboratory procedures, x-ray techniques, and in the business related functions of the dental office/clinic.

The program offers a certificate in dental assisting and an associate of science degree with a major in dental assisting. The certificate program requires 11 credit hours of prerequisite course work prior to the one academic year (two semesters) of the program. Approximately 1,100 hours of lecture, laboratory, and clinical instruction are included in the dental assisting courses. A second year of study is available which enables students to earn an associate of science with a major in dental assisting. Students who are enrolled in the program must achieve a grade of C or better in all courses which directly pertain to their major. An overall grade point average of 2.0 or better is required for graduation from the program.

Upon successful completion of the program, the student receives a Certificate in Dental Assisting which qualifies the student to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board Certification Examination. The dental assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental