

**AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY
NURSING PROGRAM
(BSN)
STUDENT HANDBOOK**



2026-2027

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Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to Ave Maria University's Nursing Program, we are delighted that you have responded to your vocational call to become a Catholic nurse. Ave Maria University's nursing program will provide the essential professional guidance and rigor necessary for you to obtain your Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree. We are committed to integrate the teachings of Christ and the Church in all that we do – meaning that we seek to imitate Christ in the care that we provide for one another and those whom we seek to care for.

Pursuing a BSN degree is not an easy endeavor. It will take perseverance, courage, and a faith commitment on your part to finish the many requirements; however, recognizing that you are made in the image and likeness of God and called to serve in this noble profession will sustain you through the journey. At the same time this knowledge will help you recognize the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Our culture today yearns for nurses that understand this simple truth, that true dignity of the human person seeks the care of the 'whole' person, body, mind and spirit.

The nursing faculty at Ave Maria University are committed to support your success throughout this amazing journey. Our faculty and staff are exceptional clinicians, educators, researchers and mentors. The relationships that you develop with one another and with your faculty will remain an integral part of your life.

Please know that we are always available to answer any questions and support you in any way that we can throughout the program.

We wish you every success as you embark upon this journey in becoming the next generation of nurses. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve you and help you to navigate through this journey of becoming a professional nurse.

In Christ,

DiAnn Ecret PhD., MSN., RN, THL. cert
Associate Professor
Department of Nursing Chair
Ave Maria University

BSN Program Team

Provost

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S.T.D. The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome.

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Nursing Program Chair and Associate Professor

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Nursing Faculty

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Assistant Professor

M.S.N. and B.S.N.- Nursing Education, Chamberlain College of Nursing

BA – Business Administration, Florida International University

Jennifer Chiarello, DNP(c), MSN, RN

Assistant Professor –

DNP(c) – Doctor of Nursing Practice, Herzing University

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BSN – Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Broward College

ADN – Associate’s Degree in Nursing, Broward College

Jessica Ponen, DNP, MSN/Ed., BSN, RN, PGCHPN

Assistant Professor

DNP- Doctor of Nursing Practice, Walden University

MSN/Ed.- Master’s of Science in Nursing Education, Walden University

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Nursing Staff

Theresa R. Carder, MSW

Clinical Coordinator
BA- Saint Mary's College
MSW University of Michigan

Karen Adamic, M.Ed., RN

Lab Coordinator
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M.Ed. Catholic Educational Leadership, Ave Maria University

Nursing Adjunct Faculty

- Alexandra Apostol, BSN, RN
- Jessica Bartalino, MSN, APRN, RN
- Lucia Campuzano, BSN, RN
- Elizabeth Eads, DNP, APRN
- Deanna Gray, BSN, RN
- Theresa Misek, BSN, RN
- Freda Perez, BSN, RN

Learn more about our faculty and staff [here](#).

History and Background of the BSN Program

The consideration of an undergraduate program in Nursing originated from the administration during the Spring 2013 semester with the aims of expanding enrollment, responding to perceived interest from prospective and current students, and fostering the broader mission of Ave Maria University as a comprehensive university.

Dr. Michael Dauphinais, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, collaborated with faculty and administrators, as well as other deans of selected nursing programs. An initial feasibility report was completed by Dr. Kevin Shiner, former Director of Institutional Effectiveness, and Dr. Denise McNulty, Nursing Consultant.

In August 2013, an Ad Hoc Committee on Nursing with representatives from the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology was formed with the charge to determine the feasibility and suitability of an undergraduate program in Nursing at Ave Maria University and, if suitable, to develop a proposal for a new program major.

In November 2013, the AMU Academic Affairs Committee approved the proposal for a nursing major and the faculty voted unanimously to approve the new program. In December 2013, the AMU Board of Trustees approved the proposal for a nursing program.

In April 2014, the University applied to the Florida State Board of Nursing for approval of a BSN Program, and

to SACSCOC for regional accreditation. In December 2014, the Florida Board of Nursing and SACSCOC approved AMU's BSN Program.

Accreditation

The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN® Board of Commissioners for the AMU BSN nursing program is continuing accreditation.



Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc.
3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400
Atlanta, GA 30326

Ave Maria University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)



Nursing Program Mission Statement

The aim and purpose of the Nursing Program at Ave Maria University is to help students discern and prepare for their vocation as professionally educated nurses, within the context of the Catholic liberal arts curriculum at Ave Maria University.

The Nursing Program is shaped by a pervasive Catholic ethos, consistent with the ideals and norms outlined in the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and the guidelines in the Charter for Health Care Workers. The Nursing Program aims to prepare its students to provide clinical nursing care and nursing education of the highest professional standards, and to advance nursing knowledge and skill through scientific inquiry and other scholarly activity. The Nursing Program seeks to impart in its students a deep compassion for the sick and the suffering, of all ages and in all human conditions, from conception to natural death.

Relationship to the Mission of the University

Founded in fidelity to Christ and His Church in response to the call of Vatican II for greater lay witness in contemporary society, Ave Maria University exists to further teaching, research, and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the abiding tradition of Catholic thought in both national and international settings.

The University takes as its mission the sponsorship of a liberal arts education curriculum dedicated, as articulated in the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, to the advancement of human culture, the promotion of dialogue between faith and reason, the formation of men and women in the intellectual and moral virtues of the Catholic faith, and to the development of professional and pre-professional programs in response to local and societal needs. As an institution committed to Catholic principles, the University recognizes the importance of creating and maintaining an environment in which faith informs the life of the community and takes expression in all its programs.

The University recognizes the central and indispensable role of the Ordinary of the Diocese of Venice in promoting and assisting in the preservation and strengthening of the University's Catholic identity.

The development of a program in nursing falls within the scope of the mission of Ave Maria University in terms of the "development of professional and pre-professional programs in response to local and societal needs." Moreover, such a program must be fully informed by the Catholic identity of the University in its recognition of "the importance of creating and maintaining an environment in which faith informs the life of the community and takes expression in all its programs." The nursing program has two central areas in which the role of the Catholic faith is of foremost importance. First, the nursing program must be based upon the view of the human person as attained by revelation and natural reason. The core curriculum in its entirety communicates an authentically Christian anthropology recognizing the distinctive contribution of theology and philosophy (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* nos. 16,18). Second, the nursing curriculum must include specific education in the area of Catholic bioethics in which these foundational anthropological principles are used to draw particular conclusions in the moral and immoral use of health technologies. For a contemporary instance of such an approach, see Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., *Biomedicine and Beatitude: An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics* (CUA Press, 2021), vol. 4 in the series *Catholic Moral Thought*, edited by Romanus Cessario,

The following four principles are affirmed as foundational to the anthropological and ethical vision of the nursing program at Ave Maria University. They are taken from Robert McTeigue S.J.'s original course on Catholic Bioethics at Ave Maria University.

1. ***The Person and Health Care***: A human person is a being with a radical capacity for embodied intelligent freedom, whether that capacity is still undeveloped or has been frustrated by accident, disease or neglect, and thus has inalienable rights that should be ethically respected, including those rights that relate to health care.
2. ***The Person in the Community***: The human community has an essential role in promoting the welfare, including the health, of all.
3. ***Developing Common Values***: If human health needs are to be well served, we must strive through research and dialogue to broaden the consensus on ethical principles that respect the dignity of the human person.
4. ***Priorities in Needs and Values***: Persons should be taught to plan their lives and make decisions in such a way that all these hierarchical needs are satisfied in an integrated and consistent manner.

In addition to these anthropological and ethical considerations from a primarily philosophical dimension, the program in nursing also considers the role of nursing within the redemptive mission of Christ and His Church. Specifically, the nursing program at Ave Maria University adheres to the *Charter for Health Care Workers* issued by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers (1995, 2020 revised). The following excerpts express the mission of nursing within, first, the ecclesial mission of the care of the human person and, second, the requisite moral principles and applications:

1. The work of health care persons is a very valuable *service to life*. It expresses a profoundly human and Christian commitment, undertaken and carried out not only as a technical activity but also as one of dedication to and love of neighbor. It is "a form of Christian witness." "Their profession calls for them to be guardians and servants of human life" (*Evangelium Vitae* 89). Life is a primary and fundamental good of the human person. Caring for life then expresses, first and foremost, a truly human activity in defense of physical life. It is to this that professional or voluntary health care workers devote their activity. These are doctors, nurses, hospital chaplains, men and women religious, administrators, voluntary caregivers for those who suffer, those involved in the diagnosis, treatment and recovery of human health. The principal and symbolic expression of "taking care" is their *vigilant and caring presence at the sickbed*. It is here that medical and nursing activity expresses its lofty human and Christian value. ...
2. To speak of mission is to speak of *vocation*: the response to a transcendent call which takes shape in the suffering and appealing countenance of the patient in his care. To care lovingly for a sick person is to fulfill a divine mission, which alone can motivate and sustain the most disinterested, available and faithful commitment, and gives it a priestly value. "When he presents the heart of his redemptive mission, Jesus says: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (Jn 10:10). It is precisely in this 'life' that all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance" (*Evangelium Vitae* 1).
3. It follows that the *therapeutic ministry* of health care workers is a sharing in the pastoral and evangelizing

work of the Church. Service to life becomes a ministry of salvation, that is, a message that activates the redeeming love of Christ. "Doctors, nurses, other health care workers, voluntary assistants, are called to be the living image of Christ and of his Church in loving the sick and the suffering:" witnesses of "the gospel of life."

4. Service to life is such only if it is *faithful to the moral law*, which expresses exigently its value and its tasks. Besides technical-professional competence, the health care worker has ethical responsibilities. "The ethical law, founded on respect for the dignity of the person and on the rights of the sick, should illuminate and govern both the research phase and the application of the findings." In fidelity to the moral law, the health care worker actuates his fidelity to the human person whose worth is guaranteed by the law, and to God, whose wisdom is expressed by the law.
5. He draws his behavioral directives from that field of normative ethics, which nowadays is called bioethics. Here, with vigilant and careful attention, the magisterium of the Church has intervened, with reference to questions and disputes arising from biomedical advances and from the changing cultural *ethos*. This bioethical magisterium is for the health care worker, Catholic or otherwise, a source of principles and norms of conduct which enlighten his conscience and direct him— especially in the complexity of modern bio-technical possibilities—in his choices, always respecting life and its dignity.
6. The continuous progress of medicine demands of the health care worker a thorough *preparation and ongoing formation* so as to ensure, also by personal studies, the required competence and fitting professional expertise. Side-by-side with this, they should be given a solid "ethico-religious formation,"[26] which "promotes in them an appreciation of human and Christian values and refines their moral conscience." There is need "to develop in them an authentic faith and a true sense of morality, in a sincere search for a religious relationship with God, in whom all ideals of goodness and truth are based." "All health care workers should be taught morality and bioethics." To achieve this, those responsible for their formation should endeavor to have chairs and courses in bioethics put in place. (no. 7).
7. The sphere of action of healthcare workers consists, in general, of what is contained in the terms and concepts of *health* and *medicine* especially. The term and concept of health embraces all that pertains to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for greater equilibrium and the physical, psychic and spiritual well-being of the person. The term and concept of medicine, on the other hand, refers to all that concerns health policy, legislation, programming and structures.
8. The meeting and the practical synthesis of the demands and duties arising from the concepts of health and medicine are the basis and way for *humanizing* medicine. This must be present both at the personal-professional level—the doctor-patient relationship—and at the socio-policy level so as to safeguard in institutional and technological structures the human-Christian interests in society and the institutional and technological infrastructures. The first but not without the second, since such humanization as well as being a love-charity task is "an obligation of justice." "[This humanization strengthens] the bases of the 'civilization of life and love,' without which the life of individuals and of society itself loses its most genuinely human quality" (*Evangelium Vitae* 27).

These excerpts from the *Charter for Health Care Workers* articulate the vision for nursing that is to inform the program of nursing at Ave Maria University. The nursing program should build upon the Christian understanding of the human person as taught in the core curriculum. It should highlight the care of the sick

and suffering as a participation in the love of Christ. It should teach and reinforce principles and conclusions of Catholic biomedical ethics. It should promote the true health of the human person. It should foster dedication and excellence in the skills, knowledge, and habits necessary for the nursing profession. The nature of nursing as service to the life of the human person demands such dedication and excellence.

BSN Curriculum Design

Nursing programs in the State of Florida are governed by Florida Statute 464.019 and the Florida Board of Nursing. There are specific curricular and staffing requirements that must be followed in order to be approved by the State of Florida to offer a degree in Nursing. Florida requires all Nursing programs to be approved by the Florida Board of Nursing, regardless of institution type or regional accreditation.

The curriculum is developed in a manner that addresses professional and content area competencies, ensures that assessment methodologies are in place for BSN candidates, and that pedagogical principles are embedded in the appropriate courses. The BSN program is 130 credits, consisting of 64 credits for non-nursing core courses and 66 credits for nursing courses.

The Ave Maria BSN curriculum is based on:

- American Nurses Association – Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 4th Ed. (2021): <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/scope-of-practice/>
- Florida Board of Nursing Practice Requirements: <https://floridasnursing.gov/resources/>
- National League of Nursing (NLN) Core Competencies: <https://www.nln.org/education/nursing-education-competencies/competencies-for-graduates-of-nursing-programs>
- NCSBN – NCLEX Blueprint and testing strategies: <https://ncsbn.org/>

Graduates of Ave Maria University's BSN program will be equipped with the knowledge and leadership skills required to advance the profession and assist patients, families, and communities in the management of care. These concepts unify the curriculum and are the focus of each clinical course. Each course addresses the roles of the nurse, specifically as a member of the profession, a provider of care, and a leader/manager of care. The curriculum incorporates professional standards of nursing practice through the American Nurses Association (ANA) Scope of Nursing Practice, Code of Ethics, NLN Core Competencies, National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)'s entry-level Competencies for NCLEX examination, and Standards, to the extent that those mentioned above conform with Catholic bioethical principles and applications.

The concepts of critical thinking, evidence-based practice, communication, collaboration, professional leadership, cultural humility, professional values, and information technology are introduced in the first nursing course and emphasized throughout the curriculum. Nursing courses focus on enhancing the nursing students' critical thought processes. Evidence-based nursing practice is introduced in the first nursing course and emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Relationship to the Core Curriculum

Students intending to major in Nursing will proceed through the full sequence of the core curriculum. The Nursing Program shares the ideals and aims of liberal education, which permeate the entire university. The core provides an indispensable foundation for the study of nursing. The Nursing Program values the core especially for giving a broad orientation to the unity of truth, the understanding of the human person as

expressed in the Catholic intellectual tradition, and the just ordering of society as developed in Western Civilization. In addition, the collective coursework of the core inculcates the skills and habits necessary for studies within the art and science of nursing, such as critical thinking, evidence-based practice, communication, mathematical and scientific analysis, and above all, prudence.

The Nursing curriculum for the four-year BSN program addresses the National accreditation standards from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (formerly the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.), as well as the *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

BSN End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes (EPSLO's)

At the conclusion of our nursing program, students will have achieved specific, measurable abilities that demonstrate their readiness for professional practice. These End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes articulate what they are expected to know, do, and value by the time they graduate.

End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes serve as the backbone of our nursing curriculum by providing a clear framework for designing and organizing courses, clinical experiences, and learning activities to ensure every component drives toward those essential graduate competencies. By articulating measurable outcomes, the program can systematically gather data—through exams, clinical evaluations, and surveys—to demonstrate to accrediting bodies and stakeholders that graduates meet professional and regulatory standards. Publishing these outcomes in the student handbook ensures students understand expectations for their performance and professional growth from day one through graduation. Finally, by regularly reviewing how well students meet these outcomes, faculty can identify strengths and areas for enhancement—in teaching methods, clinical placements, or support services—to continually improve the program and maintain graduate competence in evolving healthcare environments.

The BSN End of Program Student Learning Outcomes are:

1. **Professional Values and Standards** - Graduates will practice based on professional values and standards learned through the arts and sciences of nursing and related disciplines.
2. **Quality Improvement** - Graduates will participate in quality improvement (QI) and safety plans integral to the care of patients, families and communities.
3. **Evidence-based Practice** - Graduates will implement evidence-based nursing practice in the delivery and management of healthcare.
4. **Technology & Informatics** - Graduates will evaluate the impact of current & emerging technology on the delivery of safe and quality health care.
5. **Leadership** - Graduates will utilize nursing leadership skills to promote a commitment to quality care and advocacy for patients, families, and communities.

6. **Communication & Collaboration** - Graduates will communicate effectively with all members of the healthcare team to promote health across the lifespan and to facilitate safe patient, family, community-centered transitions of care.
7. **Health Promotion and Prevention** - Graduates will participate in health promotion and disease prevention activities to improve patient, family, community, and population health.
8. **Patient, Family, Community, and Population-centered Care** - Graduates will assume responsibility for personal and professional behavior, ethical practice, and patient advocacy, especially for vulnerable populations.
9. **Critical Thinking** - Graduates will employ critical thinking behaviors and clinical judgment to optimize patient, family, and community-centered care and outcomes.

BSN Degree Sequence of Courses

The BSN courses will be offered in a traditional classroom setting and complemented by the use of Canvas. Students who are admitted to the BSN program will enter with a cohort of students and remain with that cohort throughout the program.

Canvas is the web-based learning platform that brings together all your nursing courses, resources, and communications in one place. Through Canvas, you can:

- Access syllabi, lecture materials, and clinical documents
- Submit assignments and view feedback
- Participate in discussion boards and group activities
- Track your grades and monitor your progress
- Communicate directly with instructors and classmates

By centralizing course content, assessments, and collaboration tools, Canvas ensures you have everything you need to stay organized and succeed in the nursing program.

To begin taking nursing courses, the prerequisite courses and all required core courses listed in the AMU BSN Program Admission Requirements must be successfully completed.

BSN Typical Four-Year Plan

Total Program Credits: 130 (includes general education courses and nursing courses).

Students, please note that all students are required to attend the mandatory nursing program orientation, which will be held before the beginning of the Fall semester or the first day of class for the Fall semester.

Required Prerequisite Courses:

- BIOL 203 Introduction to Microbiology
- CHEM 105 Chemistry for Health Sciences or CHEM 125 General Chemistry I
- NURS 200 Clinical Nutrition

- PSYC 201 Principles and Methods of Psychology
- PSYC 301 Human Development and Learning

Freshman Year - Fall Semester - 16 credits	
MATH 110 College Algebra	4 credits
Elementary Foreign Language	4 credits
History 101 Western Civilization 1	4 credits
RETP 101 Rhetoric and Poetics 1	4 credits
Freshman Year -Spring Semester - 16 credits	
BIOL 203 Introduction to Microbiology	4 credits
HIST 102 Western Civilization II	4 credits
RETP 102 Rhetoric and Poetics II	4 credits
CHEM 105 or CHEM 125	4 credits
Sophomore Year - Fall Semester - 16 credits	
PHIL 205 Nature and Person	4 credits
THEO 105 Sacred Scripture	4 credits
BIOL 304 Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
PSYC 201 Principles and Methods of Psychology	4 credits
Sophomore Year - Spring Semester - 18 credits	
POLT 203 American Civilization	4 credits
THEO 205 Sacred Doctrine	4 credits
PSYC 301 Human Development and Learning	4 credits
BIOL 309 Anatomy and Physiology II	4 credits
NURS 200 Clinical Nutrition	2 credits
Junior Year- Fall Semester- 16 credits	
NURS 310 Fundamentals of Nursing	3 credits
NURS 310C Fundamentals Lab	2 credits

NURS 330 Pathophysiology for Nursing Practice	3 credits
NURS 335 Applied Pharmacology	3 credits
NURS 315 Health Assessment	1 credit
NURS 315C Health Assessment Lab	2 credits
NURS 215 Intro to Professional Nursing	2 credits
Junior Year- Spring Semester- 17 credits	
NURS 350 Psych-Mental Health Nursing	3 credits
NURS 350C Psych-Mental Health Clinical	2 credits
NURS 340 Adult Health and Illness 1	3 credits
NURS 340C Adult Health and Illness 1 Clinical	2 credits
PHIL 206 Ethics	4 credits
NURS 360 Evidence-Based Practice & Research	3 credits
Senior Year - Fall Semester - 15 credits	
NURS 420 Nursing Care of Women	3 credits
NURS 420C Nursing Care of Women Clinical	2 credits
NURS 440 Adult Health and Illness II	3 credits
NURS 440C Adult Health and Illness II Clinical	2 credits
NURS 410 Community Health	3 credits
NURS 410C Community Health Clinical	2 credits
Senior Year - Spring Semester - 16 credits	
THEO 390 Catholic Bioethics	4 credits
NURS 455 Professional Nursing Review	2 credits
NURS 430 Nursing Care of Children	3 credits
NURS 430C Nursing Care of Children Clinical	2 credits
NURS 450 Leadership and Management	3 credits
NURS 450C Leadership and Management Clinical	2 credits

- Learn more about our admission requirements and application to the nursing program:
[AMU Department of Nursing](#)
- The program plan can be found here: [AMU BSN Program Plan](#)

BSN Nursing Course Descriptions

NURS 200 Clinical Nutrition - 2 credits

This course introduces the student to basic nutritional science necessary for proper growth and development and overall health maintenance across the lifespan. Through application of clinical, dietary, and nutritional principles, dietary requirements related to changing individual and family needs, food choices, cultural variations, health behaviors and prevention of chronic disease, nutrition-related health will be explored. The relationship between diet and physical activity, the role of medical nutrition therapy and food safety will be addressed. Prerequisite: Admission to the Nursing Program.

NURS 215 Introduction to Professional Nursing - 2 credits

This course is designed to introduce the student to the nursing profession and its history, theoretical foundations, ethics, standards, clinical principles and the impact of the professional nursing on patients and society and to professional nursing, historical trends and nursing roles and responsibilities in the contemporary health care environment. The identity of the professional nurse and therapeutic nurse-patient relationships will be discussed. Principles of therapeutic communication and collaboration will be addressed. The roles of Caregiver, Advocate, Leader, Mentor, Researcher, Educator and Collaborator will be discussed. Legal and ethical dilemmas, and policy and procedural issues will be introduced. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills will be challenged with real life scenarios. Prerequisite: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 310 Fundamentals of Nursing - 3 credits

Students will focus on the concepts, skills, observations, and attitudes fundamental to professional nursing practice within a framework of clinical decision-making. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, the establishment of the therapeutic nurse-patient relationship, and the development of the student's comprehension of the physiologic and psychological responses to health and illness.

Concurrent course is NURS 310C where fundamental nursing skills are practiced and the lab component is offered. If NURS 310 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 310C (lab). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 310C Fundamentals of Nursing LAB - 2 credits

The focus of this course is to prepare students with the entry into practice skills necessary to care for patients in acute care, long term care and community settings. This is a comprehensive laboratory experience using nursing process application, faculty demonstrations, student return-demonstrations, entry level, low fidelity simulation and performance testing. The concurrent course is NURS 310. If NURS 310C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 310 (didactic/lecture). There are 45 lab/simulation hours associated with this course. See description for didactic course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 315 Health Assessment - 1 credit

Students will focus on the assessment of health status and development of interviewing and physical examination skills. Discussion about optimal self-care behaviors will be emphasized initially and then the focus will progress to the principles of health promotion, disease prevention and health teaching. Therapeutic communication skills, overall health assessment, and assessment of cultural and socio-economic aspects of health will be emphasized.

Students will learn to critically evaluate assessment findings and differentiate between normal and alterations seen with actual or potential health problems. Concurrent course is NURS 315C where health assessment skills are practiced in a laboratory setting. If NURS 315 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 315C (lab). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 315C Health Assessment LAB - 2 credits

The focus of this laboratory course is on developing therapeutic communication skills and psychomotor assessment skills. Emphasis will be placed on performing a health history, differentiating subjective and objective findings, and assessing cultural and socio-economic aspects of health. Students will critically evaluate assessment findings and differentiate between normal and abnormal findings related to actual or potential health problems. Concurrent course is NURS 315. If NURS 315C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 315 (didactic/lecture). This course requires 45 laboratory hours where health history and health assessment skills can be practiced. See description for didactic course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 330 Pathophysiology for Nursing Practice - 3 credits

This course explores the mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of body systems throughout the lifespan. Emphasis is on understanding pathophysiology as an alteration in normal physiological functioning of individuals and the presentation of selected pathophysiology and subsequent symptomatology in diverse individuals across the lifespan. The scientific approach will provide understanding of the mechanisms of disease as they are related to clinical decision-making for health promotion, risk reduction, and disease management. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 335 Applied Pharmacology - 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to examine pharmacotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of illness and the promotion, maintenance and restoration of wellness in diverse individuals across the lifespan. Focuses on the basic drug classification, concepts and principles of pharmacology with special consideration for the nursing role in developing a comprehensive approach to the clinical application of drug therapy using the nursing process. Nursing implications relative to the utilization of drug therapy are examined. Dosage calculations are evaluated for competency. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200.

NURS 340 Adult Health and Illness I - 3 credits (previously NURS 415)

Focus is on the development of selected competencies for nursing care assessment and management of adults with common diseases/illnesses. Risk reduction, recovery, and rehabilitation of patients with selected disease processes and common clinical problems are also addressed. Management of patients with peri-operative considerations, alterations in pain control, fluid and electrolytes balance, cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, hematological, and immunological systems, gastrointestinal, renal, integumentary, neurological, musculoskeletal, male reproductive, and infectious disease systems is discussed. Concurrent course is NURS 340C where students will participate in a variety of clinical experiences managing patients with acute and chronic health problems. If NURS 340 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 340C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335.

NURS 340C Adult Health and Illness CLINICAL - 2 credits (previously NURS 415C)

The focus of this course is on nursing care of the adult, including older adults with acute and chronic illnesses in a clinical setting. Students will be guided in critical thinking using therapeutic interventions learned in lab and application of research findings relevant to the care of adults with acute and chronic illnesses. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of supervised inpatient settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized. Concurrent course is NURS 340. If NURS 340C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 340 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335.

NURS 350 Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing - 3 credits lecture

An introduction to theory and concepts of Psychiatric-Mental Health nursing with emphasis on the therapeutic use of self and self-awareness to enhance relationships with mental health consumers as well as developing the professional nurse's role in working with the community. The therapeutic nurse-patient relationship will provide the basis for exploring factors which contribute to stress, maladaptive behavior, and mental illness. The student will also explore the role of Psychiatric-Mental Health nurses working collaboratively with the community and an interdisciplinary team. Conceptual frameworks that focus on mental health care will be studied in both the classroom and clinical settings. Concurrent course is NURS 350C where selected inpatient mental health settings, outpatient mental health settings, and community-based agencies will be utilized for clinical practice. If NURS 350 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 350C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335.

NURS 350C Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing CLINICAL - 2 credits

The focus of this course is on nursing care of individuals with mental health problems. Students will be guided in critical thinking using research based therapeutic interventions learned in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings that are relevant to the care of individuals with acute and chronic mental health illnesses. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of mental health settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized in the development of treatment plans. Concurrent course is NURS 350. If NURS 350C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 350 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335.

NURS 360 Research for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice - 3 credits (previously NURS 460)

This course will introduce the student to the theoretical and research bases on which practice is built. The course focuses on the use of both qualitative and quantitative research in nursing practice. Students will examine the knowledge that guides nursing interventions, evidence-based practice, outcomes research and critique published research reports. The importance of reviewing the nursing literature in order to make informed practice decisions will be addressed. Ethical issues as they relate to research and practice will be discussed. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335.

NURS 410 Community Health Nursing - 3 credits

This course is an introduction to theory and the concepts of community and public health nursing, population health, including the social determinants of health. Approaches reviewed and key areas covered will include

assessing communities, identifying primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies, and evaluating their effectiveness in a variety of settings. A sensitivity to cultural awareness, human dignity, and compassion while applying critical thinking and evidence-based practice to individuals and populations throughout the life span is central to the course. Student activity includes performing nursing assessments and managing community populations, including older adults. The use of contemporary theories of gerontology, aging, physiological/psychological functioning and the impact of developmental changes, illness, and dysfunction on individuals and communities will be explored. Students will focus on the care of vulnerable populations and will be guided in exploring the role of the community health nurse as part of a collaborative interdisciplinary team in the community. This course prepares students for active and responsible community participation as professional nurses. Concurrent course is NURS 410C where students will participate in a variety of clinical experiences. If NURS 410 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 410C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340 NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 410C Community Health Nursing CLINICAL - 2 credits

Students will be guided in critical thinking using research based therapeutic interventions learned in the classroom, lab and community settings that are relevant to the delivery of care to individuals, families, groups and aggregate communities. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge, establishing collaborative relationships with community agencies and using therapeutic interventions for populations with specific health care needs. A variety of community settings will be used to provide students with opportunities to apply epidemiological principles, assess community care needs, promote healthy strategies, prevent or minimize the impact of disease, and evaluate interventions. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized in the development of treatment plans. The concurrent course is NURS 410. If NURS 410C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 410 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. See description for didactic course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340 NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 420 Nursing Care of Women - 3 credits

Focusing on the development of competencies for safe and effective nursing care of women and the maternal/newborn dyad. Emphasis is on the nurse's role in health assessment, health promotion, and promotion of adaptive processes for women within the context of the family. Key concepts of social, cultural, economic, political, and ethical factors that affect health promotion, disease prevention, alterations in health and risk reduction for women and the childbearing family are examined. Concurrent course is NURS 420C where students will participate in a variety of obstetrics and women's care settings for clinical practice experience. If NURS 420 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 420C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 420C Nursing Care of Women CLINICAL - 2 credits

The focus of this course is on the care of mothers within the context of childbearing, childbirth and the dynamics of a childbearing family. A variety of clinical experiences in labor/delivery, nursery, postpartum, and inpatient pediatrics will be offered. Students will be guided in critical thinking using therapeutic interventions learned in lab, simulation and clinical experiences and application of research findings relevant to the care of women and their families. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of supervised inpatient settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized. Concurrent

course is NURS 420. If NURS 420C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 420 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 430 Nursing Care of Children - 3 credits

Focus is on the development of competencies for safe and effective nursing care of children. Emphasis is placed on the nurse's role in health assessment, health promotion, and promotion of adaptive processes for the child. Key concepts for social, cultural, economic, political, and ethical factors that affect health promotion, disease prevention, alterations in health and risk reduction for children are examined. Growth and development theories are contrasted and discussed in relation to assessment and care planning. Concurrent course is NURS 430C where students will participate in a variety of clinical experiences managing care for children and their families. If NURS 430 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 430C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 410, NURS 420, NURS 440.

NURS 430C Nursing Care of Children CLINICAL - 2 credits

The focus of this course is on caring for children from infancy through adolescents in a variety of inpatient, outpatient and community settings. Emphasis will be on health promotion, developmental assessment and education. Students will be guided in critical thinking using therapeutic interventions learned in previous clinicals and application of research findings relevant to the care of children and their families. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of supervised inpatient and outpatient settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized. Concurrent course is NURS 430. If NURS 430C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 430 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. See description for didactic course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360, NURS 410, NURS 420, NURS 440.

NURS 440 Adult Health and Illness II - 3 credits

Focusing on the assessment and management of adults with unstable and complex system alterations, the course builds on previously learned knowledge of natural and human sciences, health assessment, conceptual foundations of nursing practice and skills, and technologies required to practice professional nursing. Emphasis is placed on the assessment of functioning, adaptation, and recovery for patients with high acuity illnesses and chronic health problems. Previously learned and advanced nursing concepts reflecting the uniqueness of a person's health experience will be integrated into planning and providing holistic nursing care to adults experiencing acute illness. Concurrent course is NURS 440C where students will participate in variety of clinical experiences managing patients with acute, critical and chronic health problems. If NURS 440 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 440C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 440C Adult Health and Illness II CLINICAL - 2 credits

The focus of this course is on nursing care of the adult including older adults with critical, acute and chronic illnesses in a clinical setting. This course builds on NURS 340 and NURS 340C. Students will be guided in critical thinking using therapeutic interventions learned in previous clinical settings and application of research findings

relevant to the care of adults with critical, acute and chronic illnesses. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision-making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of supervised inpatient settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized. Concurrent course is NURS 440. If NURS 440C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 440 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. See description for didactic course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360.

NURS 450 Leadership and Management- 3 credits

Focus is on the professional nurse's role in applying the principles of leadership and management in clinical environments, the role of the nurse leader and the importance of safe nursing practice will be discussed and explored. Barriers to practice, regulatory, legislative and political processes relating to professional practice will also be examined. Emphasis will be on understanding nursing leadership roles and inter- and intra-professional collaboration in the development of performance improvement and quality assurance and the use of technology to increase efficiency of healthcare services and improve patient outcomes. Concurrent course is NURS 450C where leadership and management experiences in a clinical setting with preceptor is provided. If NURS 450 is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 450C (clinical). Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360, NURS 410, NURS 420, NURS 440.

NURS 450C Leadership and Management CLINICAL - 2 credits

The focus of this course is on the development of leadership skills necessary to transition into professional nursing practice. This capstone clinical course builds on theoretical and practical knowledge learned throughout the nursing program. A preceptorship is designed for students to refine their decision-making and clinical intervention skills with emphasis on responsibility and accountability of the nursing role within the health care system. Students will be guided in critical thinking using therapeutic interventions learned in previous clinical settings and application of research findings and evidenced-based practice relevant to the care of individuals, populations, and clinical operations. The nursing process, analysis and interpretation of data and decision making serve as the conceptual foundations for applying knowledge and using therapeutic interventions in a variety of supervised inpatient and outpatient settings. Culturally congruent care and societal influences of care will be emphasized. Concurrent course is NURS 450. If NURS 450C is not successfully completed, then the student will be required, at a minimum, to audit NURS 450 (didactic/lecture). There are 90 supervised clinical hours associated with this course. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing Program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 410, NURS 360, NURS 420, NURS 440.

NURS 455 Professional Nursing Review - 2 credits

Nursing review course covering the concepts required for licensure examination and entry into the practice of professional nursing. The course covers common disease processes, clinical presentation, treatments, and interventions. The focus is on critical thinking, the assessment of knowledge deficits and content remediation. Includes a review of the application process for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses and a review of the current test plan. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nursing program, NURS 200, NURS 215, NURS 310, NURS 315, NURS 330, NURS 335, NURS 340, NURS 350, NURS 360, NURS 410, NURS 420, NURS 440.

BSN Program Outcomes

The Ave Maria University BSN Program has three measurable Program Outcomes. The expected level of achievement for the three program outcomes are:

1. **Program Completion** – At least 90% of BSN Program students will graduate with a BSN degree within three years of their first day of class in the program (ACEN Standard 5.2).
2. **NCLEX Licensure Exam** – At least 84% of BSN Program graduates will successfully pass the NCLEX on their first attempt within one year of graduation (ACEN Standard 5.3).
3. **Job Placement** – Within one year of graduation, at least 90% of all BSN Program graduates will be: 1) employed in the practice of nursing in roles reflective of the BSN degree (ACEN Standard 5.4).

BSN Program Admission Requirements

To be considered for acceptance into the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the following is required:

- Admission to Ave Maria University
- A minimum overall GPA of at least 3.1 or above and completion of 48 credits (this is a statement of the minimum GPA; it is not a guarantee of admission – all applications will be reviewed and considered). A student may retake a course only once before admission, and the highest grade will prevail.
- Grade C (73 points) or greater for science courses. Science courses must be completed before entrance to the program.
- Contact information for two college/university professors who can attest to the applicant's academic ability, attributes, and strengths to pursue a career in Nursing.
- Submit a typewritten narrative (300-500 words) which includes an introduction of the applicant, why the applicant wishes to pursue a career in nursing, any healthcare experiences, and any community service work, passions, and accomplishments.
- Successful completion of the Nursing Assessment Technologies Institute (NATI) of the Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Test is required for all students interested in applying to the Ave Maria University nursing program.
- Completion of all freshman and sophomore core curriculum courses and nursing-prerequisite courses before entrance to the Nursing Program
- Completion of Health and Regulatory Requirements

Applicants must adhere to the Ave Maria University Admissions Procedure (application, official high school transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, and official college transcripts). The Admissions Procedure is outlined in the Ave Maria University Academic Catalog.

****The deadline for priority consideration is December 1 (typically of the sophomore year).**

All applicants who satisfactorily complete the application process will be notified in writing of their admission status. If the applicant is not accepted into the program, Ave Maria University offers several other health-

related programs that the applicant may wish to consider.

Health and Regulatory Requirements

Upon acceptance and prior to beginning classes, students shall possess reasonably good health and physical abilities necessary to provide safe nursing care. Providing proof of positive titers for vaccinations, physical examination, health certification, the QUANTiferon TB test, as required by AMU clinical partners, a review of symptoms, and/or chest x-ray. **All nursing students are required to fulfill all standards prior to the first day of clinical.**

Please see detailed explanations of health and regulatory requirements listed below.

1. Physical Exam, Health Certification, and Required Immunization Record

The Annual Physical and Immunization Record form must be completed by a Licensed Physician, Physician Assistant, or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and returned to the Complio database, which is required by Ave Maria University Nursing Program. The required records must be submitted to the database **no later than August 14** prior to the start of the fall semester each year, unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the faculty.

2. All immunizations must be completed; requirements are as follows:

- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, and Hepatitis B** – Lab evidence of immunity within the last 5 years of program completion for these diseases
 - Full series of vaccinations may be required for these diseases if titers aren't positive
- **Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis** – Booster with Tdap within the last ten years is required
- **Hepatitis B Vaccination** – Positive titer and/or proof of two or three injections (depending on brand of vaccine) or positive titer
 - **Consent/Refusal of Hepatitis B Vaccination** - Although it is not a requirement, we encourage all nursing students to receive the series of injections to immunize against Hepatitis B. Regardless of whether a student chooses to take the injections, the student must complete the Consent/Refusal of Hepatitis B Vaccination form.
- **TB (Tuberculosis) Screening** - Students must submit evidence of a current Quantiferon TB test
- **Annual Flu Vaccination** - Students must provide documentation of yearly flu vaccinations, as required by clinical agencies and clinical sites. Flu vaccination must occur after September 1 of the year to ensure that the most current vaccine is administered. If the flu vaccine is refused, students must strictly adhere to the personal protective equipment guidelines as required by each agency.
- **Other Vaccinations:** Additional vaccinations may be required by certain clinical facilities and/or health care agencies. For students unable or unwilling to receive certain vaccinations, every effort will be made to assist them in obtaining medical and/or religious exemptions. However, it is the ultimate

decision of the clinical facility as to what exemptions they will allow.

- **CPR Certification** - Nursing students are required to provide evidence of a current American Red Cross or American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS/CPR) certification before the first day of clinical . Certification must be maintained while a student is enrolled in the Nursing Program.
- 3. **Professional Liability Insurance** - Students are required to obtain professional liability insurance (suggested vendors provided by AMU's clinical coordinator). A student who does not have current professional liability coverage will not be allowed to begin nursing clinical courses in the Junior or Senior years.
- 4. **National Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening** – This is a requirement for participation in clinical experiences, a program requirement, and a graduation requirement. Clinical agencies require drug, criminal, and/or child abuse background checks, as well as clearance through the HHS/OIG list of excluded individuals and the GSA list of parties excluded from federal programs, to allow participation in the program's clinical experiences. Clinical agencies may deny a student's participation in the clinical experience due to a felony or misdemeanor conviction, failure of a required drug test, or inability to obtain an appropriate health clearance, which could result in delayed graduation or prevent graduation from the Nursing program. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification or licensure as a health professional.
- All nursing applicants are required to complete a drug screen and national criminal background checks before the first day of class. This is conducted at the student's expense. All applicants must affirm and attest to sound physical health, emotional stability, and personal integrity that will enable them to successfully complete the Nursing program, comply with criteria for nursing licensure, and adhere to the American Nurses Association professional codes of conduct and practice.
- Applicants must affirm and attest that they are free of addiction to substances of abuse and are willing to adhere to Drug Free Workplace policies and procedures of affiliate clinical agencies, to include submission to randomized drug testing and/or testing for cause and upon nursing program requests. Students can access the National criminal background check and drug screening application process online. Ave Maria University's Nursing program currently utilizes Complio as the sole company handling the Nursing program's screenings. Through the Complio website, students can begin the application process and set up a method of payment to Complio. A fee will be charged for the background check and drug screening. Once Complio receives payment, they will send the student the necessary information and forms to begin the drug and background check process.
- ****Please note** that it can take up to three months to receive clearance for the National Criminal Background Check – clearance must be obtained before a student can begin clinical classes**

Required forms that need to be completed and submitted before entering the Nursing Program:

- Annual Physical Form
- Immunization Form
- Health Insurance Affidavit Form
- Consent-Refusal of Hepatitis B Vaccine Form

Required Performance Standards for the Nursing Program

Performance	Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in critical situations; develop care plans
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities are sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish a rapport with patients/families and colleagues
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in oral and written form.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret actions and patient/patient responses. Give oral and written reports to other members of the health care team.
Mobility	Physical abilities are sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small places.	Move around in-patient rooms, workspaces and treatment areas, administer CPR procedures. Meet responsibilities in a timely manner.
Motor skills	Gross and fine motor abilities are sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	Calibrate and use equipment; safe position, lift and transfer patients/patients.

Required Performance Standards for the Nursing Program

Performance	Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
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Hearing	Auditory ability is sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hear monitor alarm, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help.
Visual	Visual ability is sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in care.	Observe patient/patient responses at a distance and close at hand. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and spatial relationships of objects.
Tactile	Tactile ability is sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation, auscultation, percussion and functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention.
Social behavior	Compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation.	Develop a mature, sensitive and effective relationship with patients.

Physical, Emotional, and Mental Requirements for BSN Students

To provide direct patient care safely and to be able to utilize equipment in a variety of health care settings, the student must meet the following physical, mental, and emotional requirements:

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to perform repetitive tasks.
- Ability to walk the equivalent of five miles per day.
- Ability to reach above shoulder level.
- Ability to hear tape-recorded transcriptions.
- Ability to adapt to shift work.
- Demonstrate a normal degree of manual dexterity.
- Ability to work with chemicals and detergents.
- Ability to tolerate exposure to dust and/or fumes.
- Ability to grip.
- Demonstrate a normal degree of physical flexibility.
- Ability to bend both knees.
- Ability to sit for prolonged periods of time.
- Ability to climb stairs or a ladder.
- Ability to stand for prolonged periods of time.
- Ability to lift 25 pounds.
- Ability to squat.
- Ability to perform CPR.

Mental and Emotional Requirements:

- Ability to cope with a high level of stress.
- Ability to make fast decisions under high pressure.
- Ability to cope with the anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm manner.
- Ability to manage altercations.
- Ability to concentrate.
- Demonstrate a normal degree of mental flexibility.
- Ability to cope in an acceptable manner with confrontation.
- Ability to handle multiple priorities in a stressful situation.
- Ability to assist with problem resolution.
- Ability to work alone.
- Ability to demonstrate a normal degree of patience.
- Ability to adapt to shift work.
- Ability to work in areas that are close and crowded.

Required Items for Nursing Students

Item	Cost (estimate)	Other
Malpractice/Professional Liability Insurance for Nursing Students (For Florida) *	Approximately \$30.00 to \$50.00 (per year)	<u>Suggested vendors:</u> CM&F Group, Inc. (800-221-4904) or NSO (800-247-1500), Mercer Insurance Company, Proliability Insurance Company (Students need to obtain insurance and pay the fee directly to the vendor)
Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Integrated Testing	\$350-450 (per semester, per student)	<u>Contracted vendor:</u> ATI (Students will be billed by ATI after establishing an account).
Level 2 Background Check, Drug Screen, and database for other required documents	Approximately \$100.00 to \$160.00 initially	<u>Contracted Vendor:</u> Complio (Students need to obtain these clearances and pay the fee directly to the vendor)
Lee Health Mandatories	TBD	<u>Contracted Vendor:</u> Complio
Basic Life Support/CPR certification	Approximately \$75.00 (every two years)	American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross (ARC)
ACLS taken once in Senior year	Approx. \$250.00	(Students need to obtain this certification and pay the fee directly to the AHA)
PALS taken once in Senior Year	Approx. \$250.00	(Students need to obtain this certification and pay the fee directly to the AHA)

Health requirements (Immunizations, Physical, Proof of Health Insurance, Flu vaccine, TB Test)	Cost will vary based on the student's physician	
Nursing Uniform for Clinicals/off campus (Approved dress/pants/ shirt for women and approved pants/shirt for the men) (Must have AMU Nursing Student patch on uniform)	\$60-75 per set	Program-approved vendor.

Item	Cost (estimate)	Other
Student nursing bag with necessary equipment and items for clinical practice in fundamentals and assessment	Will be billed by AMU as the lab fee (\$250)	
Textbooks and Resource Platforms for the BSN Program (Lippincott Bundle)	Approximately \$1,300.00 /Semester	Please check with the Nursing Department for textbook purchases
Stethoscope (with bell and diaphragm)	\$100.00-200.00	Students purchase
Blood Pressure Cuff	\$20.00 to \$40.00	Students Purchase
Watch (must have a second hand)	\$35.00-\$50.00	Students purchase
All white shoes (toe and heel must be enclosed, low heel, no clogs) All white socks required	Approximately \$50.00-80.00	Students purchase

As listed in the table above, students are required to obtain professional liability insurance. Students must have a minimum of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 of professional liability coverage. Professional liability coverage must be current during the entire BSN Program at Ave Maria University. A student without current professional liability coverage will not be allowed to take nursing clinical courses.

Nursing Club

Established in 2020, the Nursing Club's purpose is to expand knowledge and faith related to the nursing profession, as well as to foster friendships and create opportunities for gaining deeper insight into the nursing field.

The Nursing Club has the following officer positions:

- **President-** initiates meetings and events, coordinates between officers and the nursing department, oversees meetings, events, and other officers, and assists other officers in their duties
- **Vice President-** assists the president and steps in when necessary
- **Secretary-** assists in coordinating necessary paperwork for the club, documents meetings, sends emails as required, and reaches out to speakers or venues as necessary
- **Treasurer-** coordinates with student life to receive club funds, helps plan fundraisers and keep track of club money, and helps develop the budget
- **Graphic design/Advertising manager-** in charge of creating posters or social media posts to raise awareness about nursing events
- **Mentor/Outreach Coordinator-** in charge of reaching out to the underclassmen (freshmen-sophomores), bringing their questions to the board, and matching any student accepted into the nursing program with a senior mentor student if requested
- **Junior Representatives (2)-** act as representatives for the class, bringing to the attention of the nursing club board and the nursing faculty any issues the class may be dealing with and/or any suggestions. May attend faculty meetings when invited.

See Nursing Club Advisor for more information.

BSN Grading Policy

- In the Nursing Program, each student is evaluated on the application of theoretical concepts, safe performance in the clinical area, and ethical behavior expected of a professional nurse.

The Nursing Program uses the Ave Maria University Grading System. A student will also be considered “unsatisfactory” in the clinical area if the student does not make up absences, does not meet the uniform code requirements, is not prepared to meet the objectives for that day, does not consistently make appropriate judgments, does not submit paperwork associated with patient care on a timely basis, and if written work is unsatisfactory. In classes having lecture and clinical components, students receive one grade but must pass both the classroom and clinical portions of the course.

In order to progress in the program, a student must:

- Achieve a grade of C (73) or higher in all Nursing courses. Any grade below 73% is considered a failing grade. **Failing grades will not be rounded up to the higher percentage.**
- The student must achieve a grade of “C” (73) or better in any nursing course.
- A course grade of “C-” or “D” is not acceptable for any nursing course.
- A grade of 73% cannot be achieved by rounding up from 72.5 or above.

- Any student who receives a theory grade of “D” or “F” or a clinical grade of “F” must repeat and successfully complete both the theory and clinical components in that course before progressing to a subsequent nursing course.
- A second failure or withdrawal in any nursing course will result in the student being dropped from the Nursing Program.
- Students must pass the math calculations tests given in each course with a clinical component with a score of 90% or higher to be approved to administer medications in the clinical agencies.
- The nursing program does not offer a retake of examinations.

Advising for Nursing Students

For advising questions pertaining to prerequisite courses, core courses, or transfer of credits, please contact the Ave Maria University Academic Advisors.

For advising questions related to nursing courses, please contact the Chair of the Ave Maria University Nursing Department or the Nursing Faculty.

Student Concerns and Lines of Communication

If a nursing student needs to express concerns about anything related to the nursing program or his/her experience, the student will follow the proper chain of command, which is:

- Discussion with the involved faculty member.
- If a resolution is not achieved, then the student is expected to discuss the issue with the Nursing Department Chair.
- If there is still no resolution, then the student may discuss the issue with the Academic Dean.

For additional information regarding formal complaints or grievance procedures, please refer to the Ave Maria University Student Handbook for the procedure: <https://www.avemaria.edu/search?query=grievance>

Faculty

Faculty office hours are posted at individual faculty members’ office doors. Students with any classroom or clinical issues should first meet with the individual faculty member with whom they are working.

Appointments can be made by contacting the faculty members by phone, text, or email. Appointments can also be made with faculty to go to the Nursing Lab for skill assistance.

Relationship of Credit Hours to Classroom and Clinical Hours

The ratio of credit hours to clock hours for theory (class lecture), practicum skills lab, and clinical experiences is consistent for all nursing courses.

The ratio of credit hours to clock hours is as follows:

- **Theory:** 1credit = 1 clock hour per week
 - o 3 credit courses = (1:15) or 45 hours lecture per semester
- **Practicum skills Lab:** 1credit = 1.5 clock hours per week

- o 2 credit labs = (1:22.5) or 45 hours of lab per semester or 3-hour labs weekly
- **Clinical Instruction & Simulation:** 1 credit = 3 clock hours per week
 - o 2 credit clinical/ simulation = (1:3) or 90 hours of clinical per semester

Information on File in Nursing Program

Nursing students must have a copy of their current and valid American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider card, background and drug testing reports, physical exam, and current TB test results (required yearly) on file with Complio before the start of the semester with clinicals.

Students must notify the Nursing Program immediately of any name, address, or telephone number or criminal background change. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action.

Scholarly Papers

Scholarly papers and formal written assignments in the nursing program must be typewritten or completed on a computer. They require the use of the format found in the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, or as specified in the course syllabus. This is known as APA Style, the style used in professional papers in nursing and other academic journals.

This manual, used as a guide, assists students in organizing papers and references by recommending a standard set of rules that contribute to a uniform format and clear communication. Included in the manual are sections on references and citations, headings, serialization, statistical and mathematical copy, italics and capitalization, number style, and table format.

Writing Center

Ave Maria University offers a Writing Center, where tutors meet with interested students to provide guidance and feedback on their writing. Tutors are trained to analyze the structure of essays and engage in discussions about thesis statements and supporting proofs. Thus, our Writing Center will serve students in need of basic help as well as more advanced writers seeking to perfect their writing.

The Director of the Writing Center will present a Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop each fall, offering substantial formation and reinforcement in the principles and practice of providing tutorial guidance for student writers.

Plagiarism, Chat GPT, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative AI in any aspect of the course is prohibited. Generative AI refers to the use of artificial intelligence to create original content based on patterns it has learned. Any program that incorporates generative AI, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Co-Pilot, Quillbot, or Grammarly, is prohibited.

Library Resources

The Ave Maria University provides library services and support to students as they prepare papers, projects, and perform research. Students are required to seek guidance and utilize professional resources and databases to locate peer-reviewed journals and publications when completing assignments.

Unsafe/Unprofessional Clinical Practice Policy and Procedure

Students must meet the academic and professional standards of behavior and adhere to the clinical agency's policies and procedures when in clinical practice to ensure patient safety and well-being. Where there is unsafe or unprofessional practice, a student may be removed from clinical practice to maintain patient safety and well-being as well as the safety and well-being of other students, faculty, and agency personnel.

Although students will typically be notified during the semester when they are not meeting expectations, egregious deviations from the standards of care or other actions that jeopardize patient safety or constitute unprofessional conduct can result in failure of a clinical course and/or dismissal from the School of Nursing for a single incident, in which no notification can be reasonably made.

Examples of unsafe/unacceptable clinical practice behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Inadequate preparation for the clinical assignment
2. Careless or negligent behavior when caring for a patient
3. Providing care without the supervision of a Registered Nurse
4. Failure to report an omission or error in care
5. Falsifying patient records
6. Breach of patient confidentiality
7. Breach of professional ethics
8. Failure to adhere to agency policies and procedures
9. Absence from clinical practice without appropriate notification to the instructor and/or agency
10. Chronic tardiness
11. Impairment (drugs and/or alcohol; sleep deprivation)
12. Non-adherence with Nursing Program practice attire requirements

Removal from clinical practice may be for a single clinical assignment, the remainder of a course, or all clinical practice courses.

The student may receive an unsatisfactory evaluation in the clinical practice course(s) as well as a failure ("F") in any corequisite NURS theory course(s) or be dismissed from the Nursing Program when evidence of unsafe or unprofessional practice has been determined.

Attendance and Punctuality Policy for BSN Students

Classroom:

- Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered in the nursing department.
- Class attendance is mandatory – all absences are reported and may impact your overall grade in the course.
- Active participation in class activities, lab, and clinical is required to promote student success in the program.
- More than ONE unexcused absence will be considered excessive and will necessitate initiation of the Student Learning Contract. (Please see student Policy).
- In certain circumstances, such as illness or the death of a loved one, the student is responsible for contacting the course instructor *before* the start of the class and must make arrangements to obtain all necessary information, materials covered, and announcements made during their absence.
- Punctuality and attentiveness are courteous behaviors exemplified by being on time and remaining for the entire class period.
- Students may not be allowed to enter the classroom if late during exams and quizzes.

Clinical Practice Sites:

- Attendance at ALL clinical practice sites and clinical practicum sites is required.
- Clinical and lab absences will result in mandatory make-up lab/fees. (\$250.00 for make-up clinical fee & \$150.00 for make-up lab fees)
- Students who miss clinical and lab are required to complete the make-up clinical and lab hours as assigned by the clinical course lead and nursing chair.

Students are also required to meet minimal performance requirements in both lab and clinical experiences:

- Failure to attend and perform at an acceptable level in the lab and clinical areas could result in students' inability to progress in the course and program.
- Students who experience poor performance in the lab or clinical setting will be given a learning contract to receive faculty support in improving the skills necessary to meet the minimum safety standards of nursing practice. Therefore, clinical and lab classes require 100% attendance.
- More than two clinical absences can result in clinical failure, course failure, and inability to progress through the curriculum.
- Lab absences can also result in course failure.
- Excused absences will be reviewed by the course lead and the nursing department chair.
- In the event of an absence, the student must contact the clinical instructor & the course lead *before* the beginning of class.
- Missed practicum or lab hours must be made up.
- Make-up time is not guaranteed due to clinical schedule, facility limitations, and time constraints.

Punctuality is expected without exception. Students are required to be on time. Students are required to wear their clinical uniform for all lab and clinical courses.

Clinical Rotations

Clinical rotation sites are scheduled in both Collier and Lee counties. All nursing students are required to travel to the clinical agencies. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to off-campus clinical locations assigned by the program. Some clinical rotations may offer opportunities for small cohorts to attend in groups, while other assignments, especially during the Community Health and Leadership preceptorship, may require a student to attend alone.

Nursing Laboratory Utilization

The Nursing Laboratory is available to all students during regular school hours, which are posted outside the nursing lab each semester. Additional lab hours will be available for student use of the lab during “Open Lab” periods. The faculty encourages students to use the facility as often as needed to meet course objectives.

Student responsibilities for the Lab are:

- Wear proper attire (approved scrub shirt/pants, white sneakers, or white shoes)
- Properly utilize equipment – only pencils allowed near the mannequins (no ink pens)
- Report any breakage or malfunction of equipment
- Do not remove equipment from the Lab or move mannequins around in the Lab without the specific approval of the Instructor or Nursing Program Director
- Return all equipment and mannequins to their proper place and ensure the Lab is clean and organized.
- Please do not bring any food or beverages into the Nursing Lab area
- Please tell the instructor when you are leaving the Lab so that the Lab door may be locked.

Preceptorship

Nursing students must complete a Level 2 clinical preceptorship (as defined by the Florida Board of Nursing) during the last semester of the nursing program. This preceptorship schedules the student with a registered nurse mentor for an in-depth clinical experience consisting of a 90-hour clinical experience. It is recommended that the preceptor experience be a general medical-surgical experience. Preceptor experience cannot occur in an area without RN preceptors or on a unit where the student is employed. The student must obtain approval from the Nursing Program faculty for specialty unit placement during their preceptorship.

Professional Behavior

The learning environment (classrooms, practice sites, hallways, etc.) in which students gain knowledge, values, and competencies is co-created by all who enter it. Students in the Nursing Program conform to, and express themselves in, acceptable patterns of social behavior. Such behavior is consistently expressed through social politeness, keen sensitivity, respect, and courteous treatment of others. It is expected that students will express appropriate behavior to all faculty, students, patients, and others. Inappropriate social/professional behavior will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from the program, in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Unsafe/Unprofessional Clinical Practice Policy and Procedure section of the handbook, or the student may be prohibited from completing the semester. If the student is prohibited from

completing the semester, they must petition to return. Cell phones are disruptive to learning and are not allowed in the classroom or clinical area. Personal computers can be used in the classroom for taking notes and administering tests.

Impaired Provider

Patient safety requires that all providers of care be mentally alert and able to think critically enough to make sound clinical judgments. Many factors (i.e., drugs, alcohol, lack of sleep, etc.) can interfere with the ability to think critically. The AMU Nursing Program prohibits any student from reporting to class or clinical to perform his/her duties while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate suspension, expulsion, and/or a requirement of satisfactory participation in a University-approved drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, in accordance with the Florida Board of Nursing. A student suspected of violating this policy will not be allowed to provide patient care in the clinical setting.

Confidentiality

The right to privacy of students, faculty, staff, patients, families, and other health professionals should be judiciously protected by those associated with the Nursing Program. Cognizance of, and respect for, the rights and privileges of others is an expectation of all within the helping professions. Students honor, respect, and maintain patient confidentiality and professional privacy standards of all patients. All student/patient encounters—written, oral, or other—require all privacy and confidentiality standards of nursing practice. For written assignments, using patient identifiers is strictly forbidden. It is the responsibility of all students who have access to confidential information in the clinical setting to view patient information only on patients for whom the student is directly assigned for clinical care. It is not permissible to reproduce the patient's hospital record, it is not permissible to have student phones in the patients' rooms, or to 'take' pictures of the patient in the clinical setting.

All information that a student learns about a patient during the course of research and study is considered confidential. The confidentiality with which the information is to be treated should be established with the patient. Patient information should not be discussed in public places with individuals not involved in the student's study or the patient's care. Failure to take this into account can be considered an invasion of the patient's right to privacy and may lead to the student's dismissal from the nursing program.

Academic Honesty

Nursing students must maintain high ethical and professional conduct, characterized by honesty and integrity. The action of academic dishonesty varies by case, and therefore so do the sanctions for such actions. The consequence for academic dishonesty may be as severe as dismissal from the Nursing Program.

Students at Ave Maria University agree to abide by the University's **Academic Honor Code**, which is located in the Academic Catalogue. The Honor Code states: "On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, or steal. I will encourage

others not to lie, cheat, or steal, and I will not be party to others lying, cheating, or stealing.” Possible violations include, but are not limited to:

- The use of ChatGPT or any other form of generative AI without the expressed permission of your instructor
- The use of generative AI in any aspect of the course is prohibited. Generative AI refers to the use of artificial intelligence to create original content based on patterns it has learned and recognized. Any program that incorporates generative AI, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Co-Pilot, Quillbot, or Grammarly, is prohibited.
- Cheating on an examination
- Academic plagiarism, which is the act of passing off as one’s own the ideas or writings of another
- Sharing one’s assignment or exam without the expressed permission of the instructor
- The unauthorized use of an examination or assignment

Submitting work for multiple purposes without the prior and explicit approval of all faculty members to whom the work is submitted

Evidence of potential violations will be forwarded to the AMU Honor Council. Significant and purposeful violations may result in immediate course failure, athletic ineligibility, and the loss of student-worker privileges. Severe or repeated violations of the Honor Code will result in immediate dismissal from the University.

Every nursing student and faculty member has the responsibility to promote the highest standards of academic honesty, which should include any necessary personal intervention to eliminate dishonest conduct, such as the multifaceted forms of cheating. Evidence of cheating in any nursing course will result in a grade of “F” and referral to the Vice President for Academic Affairs with the recommendation for dismissal from the Nursing Program and the University.

Sharing of Prior Clinical Evaluations

Due to patient safety concerns, before a rotation or assignment to a new or different clinical site location, departmental officials of the accepting site are given the right to review prior clinical evaluations of students they are being asked to accept into their institution. Therefore, please be advised that program administrators will share prior clinical evaluations of students before new assignments or transfers are made. Your signature agreeing to abide by the policies and procedures of this handbook and the health professions program it represents provides authorization for this practice.

Uniform and Hygiene Regulations

The student is constantly being appraised by patients, nursing staff, and fellow students, and must be aware of factors which promote the most acceptable appearance. When wearing any part of the uniform at any time, the student represents Ave Maria University and the Nursing Program. The student’s behavior reflects on the Nursing Program and the nursing profession. Any deviation or laxity in the observation of uniform regulations will result in counseling or action by the faculty of the Nursing Program.

Nursing Uniform/Dress Code for BSN Students

Required when on campus in the Nursing Lab: Approved scrub shirt/approved pants. All white sneakers or shoes - the toe and heel must be enclosed, with a low heel, and no clogs.

Required Nursing Uniform for Clinicals (off campus): Approved nurses' uniform pants/ shirt for females and approved nurses' uniform pants/shirt for males. Must have AMU Nursing Student patch on uniform. All white nurses' shoes must be worn when off campus in clinical agencies - the toe and heel must be enclosed, the heel must be low, and no clogs are allowed. All white socks are required.

- The Ave Maria University logo and Nursing Program designation are to be worn on the left sleeve of the uniform.
- Hosiery and shoes should be white. Undergarments shall be neutral in color. Men shall wear a solid white T-shirt under the uniform top. Shirts will always be zippered or buttoned to the top.
- A complete uniform or shirt with long pants (no jeans) should be worn, along with proper identification, whenever students visit the clinical areas to obtain patient assignments.
- If a lab coat is worn over the nursing uniform, it should be 3/4 or full-length, with the Ave Maria University logo and Nursing Program designation on the left sleeve.
- Full uniform or approved scrub shirt/pants will be worn in all nursing lab classes.
- Clean, all-white sneakers or all-white shoes with a closed back and toes are required. Hi-tops, clogs or sandals are not acceptable. To prevent the transmission of infection, shoes worn for clinical duty should not be worn for any other purpose.
- IDs must always be worn on the uniform or lab coat.
- Hair must be clean, neat, and not excessively colored, styled, or loose enough to come into contact with patients or equipment. If the student's hair falls below the collar, they will be asked to style it away from the collar. Sideburns and beards should be neatly trimmed.
- Jewelry should not be worn, except for wedding rings, earrings, and the nursing watch.
- Students may wear one small, pierced post earring per ear. No body or tongue piercing jewelry allowed.
- Tattoos are not to be visible when in the clinical area. A long-sleeve white T-shirt may be worn under the uniform top to cover tattoos.
- Fingernails should be short (piano length), neat and clean, and without polish. Artificial nails are not allowed.
- Make-up should be used with discretion.
- Students should be clean and without offensive body or mouth odors. This can include the smells from perfumes, cigarette smoke, and not wearing deodorant.
- Essentials, such as pens, stethoscopes, a watch with a second hand, a penlight, scissors, and notepaper are considered part of the uniform and should be carried in the clinical areas at all times.

Nursing uniforms can be purchased at Sew Shore Uniforms. Address: 3845 Beck Blvd./Suite 809-810/Naples, Florida 34114 (located off 951). Phone: (239) 774-4655.

Failure to comply with the BSN handbook clinical guidelines may result in the student being removed from the clinical area, resulting in an unsatisfactory clinical absence.

BSN Program

Graduates of the Ave Maria University Nursing Program are eligible to apply to the State of Florida's licensing exam called the NCLEX-RN examination. Satisfactory completion of this examination results in Registered Nurse licensure. Students admitted to the BSN program are expected to take a licensure examination after graduation to become Registered Nurses. **Students must consider the legal requirements for licensure before entering the program.** The Florida Statutes, Chapter 464, and the Board of Nursing Rules 64B9 state that an applicant's application for licensure by examination may be denied in Florida for such reasons as (but not limited to):

- Having been convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of a crime which directly relates to the practice of nursing or the ability to practice nursing.
- Being unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety because of illness or use of alcohol, narcotics, or chemicals, or any other type of materials, or as a result of any mental or physical conditions.
- Having been convicted of a felony without the restoration of civil rights. Such an applicant is not eligible for licensure, is not eligible to take the licensing examination, and the application is considered to be incomplete.
- Upon receipt of documentation for the restoration of civil rights, the Board will consider the application for licensure.

The Florida Legislation has also mandated criminal checks on all applicants for licensure by examination. An arrest history, by itself, does not disqualify a person from licensure. Falsification of a document and an attempt to obtain a licensure by known misrepresentation are violations of Chapter 464-The Nurse Practice Act.

The Florida Board of Nursing requires that any nursing licensure applicant with an arrest record must submit arrest and court records of the final adjudication of each offense to the Board at the time of licensure application. A nursing licensure application will not be considered complete until these records are received. The Florida Board of Nursing may require the candidate for licensure to appear before the Board. A graduate of the Ave Maria University Nursing Program is eligible to apply for nursing licensure, but graduation does not guarantee that the Board of Nursing will issue the candidate a nursing license.

The laws in the State of Florida may change while the student is enrolled in a nursing program. It is the student's responsibility to continue to monitor laws and be aware of how they may be affected by changes in Statutes. Students wishing to take a licensing exam in other states need to contact that state's nursing license issuing body to determine if the student is eligible for being considered for testing or licensure. Multiple state licensure is now available through the States Licensure Compact but not all states participate in this compact and additional states join periodically. Information about Compact licensure is best obtained from the state where licensure is desired. Some felonies may result in the nursing student not being eligible for license for 15 years after the incident. Questions should be directed to the Florida Board of Nursing.

Junior and Senior Lippincott Book Bundle Packages- Ave Maria University has secured discounted book bundle packages through Lippincott Nursing resources for all students. Students are required to complete Lippincott NCLEX testing, simulation, DocuCare, online resources, and access to course materials for course completion. Students who do not purchase the book bundles will not be able to successfully progress through the course requirements.

ATI NCLEX Prep

Ave Maria University has secured the services of ATI NCLEX Prep to assist Nursing faculty in preparing nursing students for the NCLEX RN Exam.

Throughout the two-year coursework in the Nursing Program, students will receive information regarding testing and remediation materials required to reinforce classwork. Students are required to utilize online access to the materials, and they will also be able to access the information from home for convenience.

ATI remediation will help students understand foundational nursing content, especially in the areas where additional support is needed. Nursing students are required to complete all ATI review and remediation material assigned to them by the faculty. The NCLEX review program, required at the end of the Spring semester of the senior year, assesses readiness for the NCLEX exams; utilizing both Lippincott and ATI required resources.

Students who fall below a level 2 may be necessary to enroll in the Virtual ATI tutoring course to prepare for the NCLEX exam. The additional cost for this resource can be located on page 35 of this document. ATI involves a significant commitment of time to improve the likelihood of the student passing the NCLEX exam.

Disabilities & Accommodation

Students with documented learning disabilities should contact the Instructor and the Adaptive Services Office at the beginning of the semester. Please also refer to the Ave Maria University Student Handbook for additional information.

Any student who requires an accommodation due to the impact of a disability should contact the chair of the Nursing Department privately to discuss their specific needs. Please also contact Jenifer LeCompte at AMU Adaptive Services Office (239- 280- 1654) or AdaptiveServices@avemaria.edu to coordinate reasonable accommodations. Students are expected to provide notification of accommodation requests within the first two weeks of the semester.

Email

Nursing students are required to check their Ave Maria University email frequently. At a minimum, students should check their email on a daily basis. Email is the primary means by which the nursing faculty will communicate important information to students. Nursing faculty will not communicate with students through Facebook or other social media platforms.

Nursing Students and AMU Student Handbook

Nursing students should refer to the Ave Maria University Student Handbook for information not included in the Ave Maria University Nursing Program Student Handbook. All students, regardless of their major, are expected to abide by the guidelines outlined in the Ave Maria University Student Handbook.

ANA Scope and Standards of Practice

The Standards of Practice describe a competent level of nursing care as demonstrated by the critical thinking model known as the nursing process. The nursing process includes the components of assessment, diagnosis, outcomes identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Accordingly, the nursing process encompasses significant actions taken by registered nurses and forms the foundation of the nurse's decision-making.

- **Standard 1. Assessment** - The registered nurse collects pertinent data and information relative to the healthcare consumer's health or the situation.
- **Standard 2. Diagnosis** – The registered nurse analyzes the assessment data to determine actual or potential diagnoses, problems, and issues.
- **Standard 3. Outcomes Identification** - The registered nurse identifies expected outcomes for a plan individualized to the healthcare consumer or the situation.
- **Standard 4. Planning** -The registered nurse develops a plan that prescribes strategies to attain expected, measurable outcomes.
- **Standard 5. Implementation** - The registered nurse implements the identified plan.
- **Standard 5A. Coordination of Care** - The registered nurse coordinates care delivery.
- **Standard 5B. Health Teaching and Health Promotion** - The registered nurse employs strategies to promote health and a safe environment.
- **Standard 6. Evaluation** - The registered nurse evaluates progress toward attainment of goals and outcomes.

The Standards of Professional Performance:

- **Standard 7. Ethics** - The registered nurse integrates ethics in all aspects of practice.
- **Standard 8. Advocacy** – The registered nurse demonstrates advocacy in all roles and settings.
- **Standard 9. Respectful and Equitable Practice** - The registered nurse practices with cultural humility and inclusiveness.
- **Standard 10. Communication** - The registered nurse communicates effectively in all areas of professional practice.
- **Standard 11. Collaboration** - The registered nurse collaborates with the healthcare consumer and other key stakeholders.
- **Standard 12. Leadership** - The registered nurse seeks knowledge and competence that reflects current nursing practice and promotes futuristic thinking.
- **Standard 13. Education** - The registered nurse seeks knowledge and competence that reflects current nursing practice and promotes futuristic thinking.

- **Standard 14. Scholarly Inquiry** - The registered nurse integrates scholarship, evidence, and research findings into practice.
- **Standard 15. Quality of Practice** - The registered nurse contributes to quality nursing practice.
- **Standard 16. Professional Practice Evaluation** - The registered nurse evaluates one's own and others' nursing practice.
- **Standard 17. Resource Stewardship** - The registered nurse utilizes appropriate resources to plan, provide, and sustain evidence-based nursing services that are safe, effective, financially responsible, and used judiciously.
- **Standard 18: Environmental Health** – The registered nurse practices in a manner that advances environmental safety and health.

The 2025 American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses was developed to inspire and guide nurses' journeys in nursing, contributing to the health and dignity of individuals and communities.

- **Provision 1 – Dignity and Respect** – The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.
- **Provision 2 – Primary Commitment** – A nurse's primary commitment is to the recipient (s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community or population.
- **Provision 3 – Trust and Advocacy** – The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipients (s) of nursing care.
- **Provision 4 – Responsibility and Accountability for Practice** – Nurses have the authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.
- **Provision 5 – Duties to Self** – The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth, including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.
- **Provision 6 – Ethical Work Environment** – Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.
- **Provision 7 – Knowledge Development and Social Policy** – Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.
- **Provision 8 – Collaborative Relationships** – Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with other nurses, healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater outcomes.
- **Provision 9 – Commitment to Society and Social Justice** – Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing.
- **Provision 10 – New Global Nursing Community** – Nursing through organizations and associations, participate in the global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing.

The National League for Nursing (NLN) 4 Core Competencies for Nurses

The NLN identifies four core competencies for nurses: Human Flourishing, Nursing Judgment, Professional Identity, and Spirit of Inquiry. These competencies are foundational for nursing education and practice, emphasizing holistic patient care, critical thinking, ethical practice, and continuous learning.

Each Competency represents:

1. **Human Flourishing:** Advocates for patients, families, communities in ways that promote self-determination, integrity, and lifelong learning and growth as human beings.
2. **Nursing Judgment:** Emphasizes the ability to make informed decisions in practice, integrating nursing science to provide safe, quality care and promote patient health within a family and community context. It includes using the nursing process, incorporating evidence-based practice, and effectively communicating to minimize patient risks or harms.
3. **Professional Identity:** Implements one's role as a nurse that reflects integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse who is committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe quality care for diverse patient populations, communities, families. The nurse makes a commitment to lifelong learning and advocacy.
4. **Spirit of Inquiry:** Examines the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.

The NLN's four competencies are interconnected and form the basis for effective and ethical nursing practice. They guide nurses in providing holistic, patient-centered care while promoting their own professional growth and contributing to the advancement of the nursing profession.

The policies and procedures in this Handbook are subject to change as needed. Students will receive notification in writing if a policy is revised. Please check your Ave Maria University email on a regular basis.

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY BSN PROGRAM

ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

I HAVE READ THE NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK AND UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENT AND AGREE TO HONOR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFIED IN THE HANDBOOK. *

Each student is responsible for the objectives and course requirements of each course in the curriculum and understands that he/she must abide by the policies, objectives, and course requirements of the Nursing Program and of Ave Maria University. I hereby verify informed consent of this acceptance of this responsibility by completing this form.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)

Student ID Number

****The policies and procedures in this Handbook are subject to change as needed. Students will receive notification in writing if a policy is revised.***