Bachelor of Science in Nursing Courses

The BSN courses are designed to prepare you for the more professional, college-prepared role of the BSN nurse as opposed to the technical/vocational role of the ADN nurse. In the process of acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to be a bachelor’s prepared nurse, you will experience changes in the way you think, act, and are. The key to success rests with you. Although methods and techniques to assist you are available, only you can make them work. Only you can learn. This will require that you assume responsibility for your academic efforts and use assertive behavior to meet your goals. Assertiveness is a positive skill because it provides you with the courage and stamina to meet your goals. Assertiveness does not mean confrontation or aggression; rather, it implies that you are able to communicate in a positive and constructive manner.

A bachelor’s degree student is expected to be professional, well-rounded, and motivated, thus a professional attitude is necessary. In the online environment, students are expected to turn in assignments on time, to address others with respect, and to project an attentive and concerned manner. The IRSC Student Handbook outlines the Student Standards of Conduct and Regulations and is available from the IRSC Student Affairs Office or at http://www.IRSC.edu/pdf/admissions/stuhandbook.pdf.

In order to be successful in these courses, certain software must be used. If you do not own this software, you must have reliable access to the software on a periodic basis. The software includes: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint and a web browser such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari.

You must have reliable access to a computer for at least one hour each day on average. Owning a lap top computer is recommended. You can use a Mac or a PC as long as you have the software listed above. Access could be at work, a library, or at an IRSC Computer Lab. Internet access via wireless or wired broadband (not dial-up) is recommended.
BSN Course Expectations

NUR3056C Nursing Assessment

This course teaches advanced knowledge and skills of physical assessment. Students present case studies utilizing assessment techniques, perform history-taking, demonstrate general and focused assessments, and correlate diagnostic findings with clinical conditions. This course meets bi-weekly and includes clinical experiences in IRSC’s on-campus nursing lab. Challenging critical thinking quizzes comprise part of the grade. The remainder of the coursework is related to class presentations and hands-on assessment abilities. For their capstone project, students are required to provide a complete videotaped physical assessment performed on a volunteer “client”. Most of the lecture content and all of the on-line quizzes must be accessed from the internet. The successful student should expect to spend about 8 hours per week reading and studying. The course also requires high-speed internet access and the student should possess an understanding of basic computing skills.

NUR 3125 Pathophysiology

This course teaches the advanced study of pathophysiology and symptomatology across the lifespan. The focus is on alterations in physiologic functions and manifestations of disease. Emphasis is on relating signs, symptoms, and diagnostic findings of common alterations. Students will also gain an understanding of nursing interventions to promote adaptation. Coursework includes on-line quizzes, a group case study presentation, participation in on-line and in-class discussions, and a comprehensive final exam. The successful student will spend 8 to 10 hours of studying per week. Students enrolled in this course are advised to have high-speed internet access and a basic understanding of Microsoft PowerPoint and other basic computing technologies.

NUR 3145 Pharmacology

This course teaches pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacokinetics as they relate to nursing practice. The nursing process is utilized in the study of various drug classifications. Providing up-to-date knowledge of major drug categories, this course will help the nurse to manage the client’s drug regimen more effectively. The class meets in person and on-line and the student is expected
to participate in class discussions. For this course, you must be able to manage your time well enough to allow for ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week. The student is required to write a drug review and analysis paper and to take online-based exams.

NUR3164 Nursing Research and Informatics

This course teaches the relationship of nursing research and the utilization of evidence-based practice. This course explores the research process as a foundation for acquiring skills needed to access, critically appraise, and synthesize research literature. An approach to information technology is also examined in this course. Concepts in health care informatics, trends, and exploring innovative strategies and applications are introduced. **Pre-requisite courses MAC 1105 & STA 2023 must be completed prior to registering for this course.** The class meets for orientation and then three to four times per semester. This course is blended with three to four scheduled classes, V-Brick Lectures, IPod lecture, and/or discussion board requirements. This course has weekly readings in text book and journal articles, weekly postings, three – five papers, one project, and/or quizzes. Approximately a minimum of three studying/class work hours per week for every credit hour are to be expected. All students registered in NUR 3164 must have access a computer with the capabilities to work with the Angel system. High-speed internet access is required. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are also necessary software.

NUR 3826 Ethical and Legal issues in Healthcare

This course emphasizes legal and ethical decision-making in the professional nursing role. Cultural diversity and personal beliefs and values are examined in relation to health. This is a three-credit course that meets every other week. There will be assignments every week with the alternate assignments submitted electronically. It is expected that you will print the course syllabus and the weekly assignment paperwork prior to the start of the course. For this course, you must be able to manage your time well enough to allow for ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week. You are required to attend classes and participate both in class and on the on-line discussion board, to keep a journal, explore a legal or ethical dilemma, and make a class presentation on that dilemma. The class presentation is done as if speaking at a professional seminar. Written communications will be in APA format.
**NUR 3846 Nursing Theory**

This course critically analyzes nursing theory and foundations for reasoning in nursing practice. It focuses on the evolution and application of nursing knowledge. The contexts of nursing theory are explored. The nature and specific characteristics of nursing theory are discussed, including perspectives on essential elements of theories at various levels. The purpose of this examination is not to focus on detail on any one theorist, but to examine theory and its contribution to the advancement of nursing as a discipline. There will be assignments every week with the alternate assignments submitted electronically. As a rule of thumb, you will need to study three hours for each hour of credit. For this course, you must be able to manage your time well enough to allow for ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week. You are required to attend classes and participate both in class and on the on-line discussion board, to write a concept analysis paper, and present your concept to the class as if speaking before a professional seminar. Written communications will be in APA format.

**NUR 4837 Healthcare Policy and Economics**

This course examines global, economic, organizational, and political contexts within which professional nursing practice occurs. Students acquire knowledge and skills necessary for understanding the evolution of health service organizations, the development of health care policy, and the dynamic interrelationships among socioeconomic and political systems influencing health care and nursing practice. Theoretical perspectives, research findings, experiences and application to nursing practice will be identified. Students will demonstrate participation in online forums by contributing to the substance and process of the discussion. Attendance and participation in class are required. There will be assignments every week with the alternate assignments submitted electronically. As a rule of thumb, you will need to study 3 hours for each hour of credit. For this course, you must be able to manage your time well enough to allow for ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week. You are required to attend classes and participate both in class and on the On-line discussion board, to work with a group of students to identify a healthcare problem and develop a compelling argument for a policy change regarding this
problem. This presentation should be in the form of a PowerPoint, charts and/or graphs, or other modalities to get your message across to your Legislator/Governor as if he or she were in the room listening to your proposal. Written communications will be in APA format.

**NUR 4636C Community Health**

This course teaches community and public health nursing, disaster preparedness, epidemiology, culture, and environment. The focus of this course will be nursing care designed to prevent and/or reduce risk of disease and injury, and promotion of health and wellness in diverse populations across the age spectrum. **This course includes clinical experience in community-based settings. Students are required to complete health information including a physical exam and immunization requirements, a background check, fingerprinting, and drug testing prior to the beginning of the course. Students who do not complete the required paperwork prior to the last day of Registration will not be eligible for Registration.** Downloads of necessary forms are available from the main BSN web page. Coursework includes in-class tests, written assignments and a project paper based on a concern or problem identified in the community-based clinical experiences. A satisfactory grade is required in the clinical experience and clinical paper in order to achieve a passing grade for the course as a whole. E-mail and Blackboard/On-line are used extensively in this course, and students are required to have general knowledge of basic use of this technology. For this course, you must be able to manage your time well enough to allow for ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week. High speed internet access is recommended. **Prerequisites include NUR 3164 and NUR 3846.**

**NUR 4655 Nursing in a Diverse Culture**

This course teaches the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to provide culturally competent nursing care to people from diverse groups. This course analyzes the health-related practices, values, and beliefs among cultural groups as they influence nursing practice. NUR 4655 combines on-line discussion board posting assignment, classroom group presentations, lecture attendance, and/or a case study to facilitate the acquisition of skills likely to enhance the professional nurse’s ability to administer culturally
competent nursing care. Successful students will allow for eight to ten hours of study, reading, and/or writing each week.

**NUR 4827 Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing**

This is a hybrid on-line course. As such, it meets face-to-face every other week with alternating weeks on-line. EACH WEEK there is expected reading, homework, assignments, and deadlines even though there may not be a face-to-face class meeting. **Clinical time is scheduled with a preceptor in community health care facilities.** Both class and clinical aspects of the course MUST be satisfactorily completed to pass this course. Students are expected to have current physical, CPR, immunizations and other required nursing department documentation completed BEFORE the class starts to meet contract requirements with the community organizations. Students who do not complete the required paperwork prior to the last day of Registration will not be eligible for Registration. Besides readings there are a number of assignments required for this course. Examples include: written case analyses, discussion question analysis, video viewing and analysis, journal summaries, and a group presentation. There are also exams to validate learning of content. Clinical experience is also required. Be prepared to devote at least an average of 10 hours per week to reading and written assignments. You will be asked to be online frequently to participate in the online discussions and to do your postings to peers. Also, there is a lot of critical analysis and writing in this course. **As this course is considered the capstone of the BSN program, pre-requisites include: NUR 3164, NUR 3846, NUR 4837, NUR 4655, NUR 4636C. NUR 3826 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite.**