Program Coordinator: P. Neal

The King Nursing faculty believes nursing serves society through the competent and compassionate delivery of direct and indirect health care services to individuals, families, and communities, guided by Christian values. As a professional discipline, nursing for the registered nurse student (RN-BSN) is based on a strong foundation of knowledge from the humanities, arts and sciences, and from nursing and health-related disciplines, which integrate academic and practice components.

The BSN accelerated program for Registered Nurses (RN-BSN) provides a unique alternative to the traditional method of pursuing a Bachelor’s degree. This program is designed as a transformational learning experience leading to personal and professional skill development to meet the needs of adult learners.

The total number of hours required at King to complete the RN-BSN degree is 48 semester hours, depending on a student’s prior academic experience. The program is full-time and is designed so that a student with 76 credit hours of work completed at an approved college will graduate in four semesters.

On-ground nursing courses meet one night per week for four hours. Courses last either seven weeks or eight weeks. The RN-BSN program is also offered online; online courses are either seven weeks or eight weeks.

All RN-BSN students are required to take a health-related science such as Pathophysiology, Epidemiology, Human Disease, or Population Health (4 s.h.). In addition to nursing courses, RN-BSN students take two liberal arts courses (8 s.h.) through the Quest Program, which has been designed so that nursing students can earn the credits in the liberal arts that are required for a bachelor’s degree from King University, and Writing for the Healthcare Profession (4 s.h.). The schedule for these courses is:

Semester #1   TCOM 2410 Writing for the Healthcare Profession

Semester #2   One of four (4) science courses:
- NURS 3005  Pathophysiology
- HCAD 3004 Human Diseases
- HCAD 3110 Epidemiology
- HCAD 3130 Population Health
Semester #3  LIBS 3600 Quest for Stewardship & Ethical Responsibility  OR  
LIBS 4000 Quest for Career & Vocation

Semester #4  LIBS 3600 Quest for Stewardship and Ethical Responsibility  OR  
LIBS 4000 Quest for Career and Vocation

All of these courses are usually offered in Quest format where each course is 
delivered in five modules. Each module is three weeks long. The course meets once 
every three weeks over the entire 15-week semester and are available on-line and 
face-to-face

In addition to a cohort structure, accelerated pace, applied learning, and participative 
methodology, the King RN-BSN program also stresses the following:

**Clinical Learning**
Nursing practice requires a broad array of essential competencies. The RN-BSN 
program requires lab practice in physical assessment, clinical change projects, 
community teaching, and service learning activities. Clinical learning activities that 
meet essential competencies are embedded in courses throughout the plan of study. 
Students individually and supportively participate in therapeutic communication, 
assessment, change theory, process improvement, leadership, delegation, and time 
management exercises. Students engage in a reverse problem-based learning 
pedagogy that fosters critical thinking as they identify problems, conceptualize 
 improvement processes, and develop possible solutions. Clinical experiences 
promote care delivery to individuals, families, and populations across the lifespan 
that is holistic, culturally competent, spiritually astute, fiscally responsible, and 
ethically sound.

**Latest Technology**
Contemporary technology enhances the educational experience and preparation for 
meaningful and successful careers. The faculty encourages the use of web-enhanced 
activities to influence and promote learning for those receiving and providing 
healthcare. Experience with beginning level informatics competency is embedded in 
several nursing courses.

**Degree Requirements**
If students transfer fewer than 76 semester hours, additional courses will be required 
to complete 124 total semester hours in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Science 
in Nursing degree. King requires that 48 semester hours be completed at King, to 
include at least 32 semester hours of the major subject, in order to receive a degree 
from King. (Students may transfer up to 16 s.h. of their major courses.) The 
additional courses may be taken prior to, during, or following the completion of 
course work for the BSN degree. An advanced placement option consisting of 
standardized achievement tests is available; students should check with their Student 
Success Specialist.

RN-BSN students also take 8 s.h. of liberal arts courses through the Quest program; 
4 s.h. of an approved science course such as Pathophysiology, Human Diseases,
Population Health or Epidemiology; and 4 s.h. of Writing for the Healthcare Profession.

All students who graduate from King University must have completed 30 semester hours of general education in the liberal arts and sciences. Students must have at least one course in each of the following categories:

- Citizenship (history, political science, philosophy)
- Written communication (first-year English composition)
- College level mathematics
- Human Culture (intermediate-level foreign language, psychology, sociology, religion, biblical studies anthropology)
- Humanities (literature, art history, music history, theater history, film studies, photography, studio art, theater, vocal music, instrumental music)
- Science with laboratory

The remainder of the 30 semester hours can be electives in the liberal arts and sciences.

All nursing courses are designed to meet the standards as outlined in *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2008); *Nursing Scope & Standards of Practice* (ANA 2010); *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (ANA, 2008); *TN Law Regulating the Practice of Nursing* (June 2010, rev.) & *the Laws Governing the Practice of Nursing and Health Professions in General Code of Virginia* (Dec. 2011).

**RN-BSN Advanced Placement**

In an attempt to minimize barriers to entry into the baccalaureate level of education for registered nurses, and with the intent to encourage educational mobility for the diploma or associate degree nurse, the King School of Nursing offers an opportunity to validate demonstrated competence beyond that which has been verified through previous academic achievement.

Awarding academic credit is accomplished through successful completion of a validation process which will be completed during the first semester of enrollment. To be eligible for the advanced placement credit, the student’s file must show evidence of:

1. Graduation from an NLNAC accredited diploma or associate degree program,
2. Completed nursing courses with a “C” grade or higher,
3. Current and valid registered nurse license,
4. Current work experience as a registered nurse (resume),
5. Validation of clinical competency (current employer performance evaluation), and
6. Two letters of reference documenting the potential to succeed in the RN-BSN track. One must be from a professor who has taught the applicant.

Validation consists of successfully passing a series of Comprehensive exams that validate general nursing knowledge. The exams are offered through NLN. Advanced
notification of exam details will be posted. Students should contact their Student Support Specialists for further information. If the cut-off score is not achieved the exams may be repeated one time only.

RN students who do not choose to earn credit through the exams are encouraged to take courses at King, particularly Statistics.

**BSN Student Handbook**
RN-BSN students are required to follow School of Nursing policies set forth in the BSN Student Handbook and outlined on course syllabi. All RN-BSN students are required to read and follow university policies relative to appeals and grievances listed in the Student Handbook, *Twister.*
Grade Requirements
A grade of C+ or higher is required in all nursing courses and a C- in all other required program courses. If a failed grade is earned, students must repeat the course. If more than two grades of 2.3 (C+) or lower are earned, despite the student maintaining a 2.75 GPA, the student will be dismissed from the program. RN students may reapply one time only.

Program Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the program, all graduates are prepared for professional nursing practice in a variety of hospital or community settings, and they have been provided with an adequate foundation for graduate study. RN-BSN program graduates will be prepared to meet the following competency outcomes:

1. Manage nursing care that is competent and culturally sensitive.
2. Promote, maintain, or restore health for clients of all ages and with diverse needs.
3. Apply core nursing competencies of assessment and therapeutic intervention, communication, critical thinking, human caring, teaching, management and leadership, and knowledge integration from the arts and sciences, nursing and related health sciences.
4. Collaborate, communicate and negotiate with nurses, other health care providers, religious congregations, and community agencies to promote, maintain, or restore health and evaluate nursing care outcomes.
5. Incorporate relevant, contemporary technology to promote effective health and function of clients, employers, communities, self, and the profession.
6. Engage in continued learning and development to improve the quality of professional and personal competence and accountability.
7. Engage in activities to promote respectful citizenship, Christian values, and the positive health and well-being for clients by advocating for them and allocating and managing physical, fiscal, and human resources.

The Quest
All RN-BSN students are required, and other professional studies students have the option, to take 8 s.h. of Liberal Studies (LIBS) courses called the Quest (LIBS 3600 The Quest for Stewardship and Ethical Responsibility [4 s.h.] and LIBS 4000 The Quest for Career and Vocation [4 s.h.]). The Quest program is an interdisciplinary and integrated series of courses that revolve around a group of essential themes in the Humanities. The goal is to examine the elements that figure in the development of character and to provoke students to more serious consideration of their own character and its impact on their vocations. Each course normally requires a certain amount of reading, writing, and class discussion. Courses are in the Quest format and either meet online or face-to-face over the 15-month semester, once every 3-weeks. Instructors are normally King faculty members who specialize in a Humanities field like English, History, or Religion.

All RN-BSN students are also required to take 4 s.h. of a health-related science such as Pathophysiology, Epidemiology, Human Disease, or Population Health, and Writing for the Healthcare Profession.
RN-BSN Major Requirements

NURS 3310
Dimensions of Professional Nursing ............................................ 4 s.h.

NURS 3320
Research Methods for Nurses ...................................................... 4 s.h.

NURS 3410
Health and Physical Assessment .................................................. 4 s.h.

NURS 3420
Spiritual and Cultural Considerations in Nursing ....................... 4 s.h.

NURS 4310
Nursing Ethics .............................................................................. 4 s.h.

NURS 4320
Community/Public Health Theory and Practice ......................... 4 s.h.

NURS 4410
Principles of Leadership and Management .................................. 4 s.h.

NURS 4420
Capstone for Registered Nurses ................................................... 4 s.h.

Choose from the following science courses ................................. 4 s.h.

HCAD 3004
Human Diseases (4 s.h.)

NURS 3005
The Science of Human Pathophysiology (4 s.h.)

HCAD 3110
Epidemiology & Biostatistics (4 s.h.)

HCAD 3130
Population-Based Health (4 s.h.)

The following courses are also required.

LIBS 3600
The Quest for Stewardship and Ethical Responsibility .......... 4 s.h.

LIBS 4000
The Quest for Career and Vocation ................................. 4 s.h.

COMM 2410
Writing for Health Professions .............................................. 4 s.h.

*Co-requisite NURS 3310

NURS 4990
Comprehensive Assessment .................................................... 0 s.h.

Total ........................................................................................................ 48 s.h.