Program Coordinator: M. Cash  
**Delivery Formats:** Face-to-Face and Online

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is designed for Registered Nurses (RN-BSN). The program 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 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.

### Student Learning 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 student learning 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 positive health and well-being for clients by advocating for them and allocating and managing physical, fiscal, and human resources.

King University’s RN-BSN program prepares graduates to assume professional healthcare roles through integrating evidence-based practice, leadership, spiritual and culturally competent care, citizenship, and service into a career focused on achieving meaningful lives with a pursuit of transforming culture in Christ.

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.

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 in the Quest format 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 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:

Admission Requirements
Specific requirements for admission include:
• A completed online application (found at http://apply.king.edu)
• A $25 application fee
• Graduation from an accredited nursing program
• Cumulative GPA of 2.75
• Submission of official transcripts of all college-level work
• Current CPR certification
• Unencumbered Tennessee or compact state RN License

Student will be asked to provide the following additional item for the Admissions Committee if his or her GPA falls below the requirement for undergraduate program:
• Personal statement: a 2-3 page personal narrative describing the student’s goals and aspirations for pursuing the nursing program

Transfer Credit
Students wishing to transfer a nursing course(s) completed at another college or university, as a substitute for a King University required course, must provide a course syllabi to be evaluated by the nursing faculty for equivalence in theoretical and clinical content. The Dean of Nursing has the final decision on the equivalence of a course. Transfer courses are seldom evaluated for substitution of NURS or LIBS courses, since the curriculum is specifically designed based on the 48 semester hours needed to meet residency requirements.

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.

Computer Requirements
Laptop computer with minimum of Microsoft Office 2010 or later, wireless capability, and webcam required.

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.
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 polices 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.

**Comprehensive Competency Assessment**

All students graduating from King University, regardless of major, must demonstrate competency in their major field prior to graduation. To fulfill this university-mandated graduation requirement, the School of Nursing has chosen to have RN-BSN students address, in a reflection paper, the standards found in *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (2008). The specific assignment parameters are thoroughly delineated in the “Demonstrating Achievement of Core Competencies for the Registered Nurse” document.

This professional APA 6th edition format paper will be no less than 2 and no more than 5 pages in length. Students will use self-reflection to describe specific moments in clinical practice that were enhanced by the learning experience in the nursing or Quest courses and link these moments to one or more of the Essentials.

The paper will be rated per an evaluation rubric. Papers that use examples to illustrate three or more of the Essentials (total) will be highly rated per the grading rubric. The rating will not affect the Capstone course grade.

The completed paper is due by the end of week three of the Capstone course. Capstone faculty will review the paper against the grading rubric, then forward to the School of Nursing. The completed paper is a graduation requirement.

**RN-BSN Major Requirements**

- NURS 3310
  Dimensions of Professional Nursing ........................................ 4 s.h.
- NURS 3315
  Introduction to Healthcare Informatics .................................. 4 s.h.
- NURS 3330
  Introduction to Evidence Based Practice .................................. 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 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.)

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.