

# Department of Nursing

**Dr. Heidi Taylor**, department head

Old Main, Room 313A • WTAMU Box 60969  
(806)651-2630 • Fax (806)651-2632

htaylor@mail.wtamu.edu • www.wtamu.edu/nursing

Faculty: Alexander, Branson, Brown, Carroll, Casida, Crabtree, Davenport, Davis, Dean, Dowell, Embrey, Fitzner, Ford, Gillispie, Hartin, Jemes, Loftin, Matos, McLain, Reyes, Rogers, Skarke, Taylor, Waight.

The Department of Nursing offers courses of study leading to the baccalaureate degree in nursing and the master's degree in nursing. Both programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and meet educational standards and requirements for the Board of Nurse Examiners for the state of Texas.

The undergraduate program prepares graduates for the practice of professional nursing in diverse health-care settings and with diverse populations. Graduates complete 126 semester hours of the prescribed curriculum for the bachelor of science in nursing degree. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as registered nurses. For persons who are licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), refer to the "Major in Nursing—For Licensed Vocational Nurses" section. For persons who are licensed as registered nurses in good standing, RN to B.S.N. (offered totally online—see this section) and RN to M.S.N. program options are available (see the graduate section).

The graduate program of study leads to the master of science degree in nursing with role specializations in education, administration and family nurse practitioner.

Located on the WTAMU campus, the Department of Nursing includes classrooms, laboratories, the Bivins Nursing Learning Center and faculty offices. Clinical experience is provided in health-care facilities in Amarillo, Canyon and surrounding areas.

Discipline	Course Prefix
Nursing .....	NURS

NOTE: See the "Academic Courses and Abbreviations" and "Course Descriptions" sections of this catalog for a complete list of courses offered by the University.

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Degree

### Majors in Nursing

- Major in Nursing—Basic and Transfer Students (Major Code: 701)
- Major in Nursing—Licensed Vocational Nurse Degree Completion (Major Code: 713)
- Major in Nursing—Registered Nurse Degree Completion (Major Code: 718)

### University Core Curriculum Requirements

Refer to the "University Core Curriculum" section of this catalog.

NOTE: BIOL 2401 and 2402 with concurrent lab, required for nursing majors, meets University Core Curriculum science requirements.

### Additional Nursing Requirements

- Eight hours from BIOL 2420 or 2572 with concurrent lab.
- PSYC 2301, 2314, SOCI 1301.
- Basic chemistry course (NSCI 1372, CHEM 1405 or 1411).

### Admission Requirements for the Department of Nursing

- Formal application and admission to WTAMU (application fee required).
- A separate, competitive application process is required for admission into the Department of Nursing. Admission is required prior to 2000-level nursing courses for basic students and LVN degree-completion students, and prior to 3000-level nursing courses for RN degree-completion students. Current license to practice as LVN or RN is required for LVN and RN degree completion students requesting advanced standing (application fee required).
- Completion of the following courses: ENGL 1301 and 1302; basic chemistry course with lab, NSCI courses; PSYC 2301; BIOL 2401 with lab (four hours); MATH 1314 or 1324; and demonstrated computer competency prior to 2000-level nursing courses.
- Minimum grade point average of 2.5 and a minimum grade of "C" in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology and mathematics courses.
- A transfer student must submit copies of all transcripts and if transferring from another school of nursing, recommendation letters from the dean and detailed descriptions of nursing courses. A maximum total of 66 semester hours may be transferred from community colleges attended.
- To be considered for admission, the following items must be submitted with the application: application fee, immunization records and all transcripts.
- Applications to the Department of Nursing should be submitted by Feb. 1 for fall semester and summer session admission and Sept. 1 for spring semester admission.
- All basic and LVN students are required to take a pre-admission exam.
- Upon admission to the nursing program, criminal background checks may be required.

Students may appeal Admissions Committee decisions, first to the committee and then to the head of the Department of Nursing. Exceptions, resulting in conditional admission, will be considered on an individual basis by the head of the Department of Nursing.

### Advanced Standing

Registered nurses or others with previous experience and education in nursing must be admitted to the Department of Nursing through the same procedure as all students. Advanced standing will be determined after evaluation of transcripts. For further information, refer to "Advanced Placement and Credit by Examination" in this catalog.

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## Re-admission to the Department of Nursing

Re-admission to the Department of Nursing is not automatic. Students must re-apply to the department after withdrawal or failure in any semester. Students who make grades of “D” or below three times in nursing courses, with the exception of NURS 1171 and 1322, will not be allowed to continue in the program. A student who leaves the program for any reason may be permitted to re-enroll based on (1) individual qualifications and (2) available space. The student’s record of dropped courses or withdrawals from the University will be considered. Satisfactory scores on comprehensive examinations covering nursing theory and clinical course work previously completed will be required for basic students who have not been enrolled in nursing courses at WTAMU for five or more years.

## Major in Nursing—For Basic and Transfer Students (Major Code: 701)

### Transfer Students

Transfer students must:

- Be in good academic standing and eligible for readmission at the last nursing program attended.
- Provide documentation from the dean or appropriate department head of the last nursing program attended that states readmission eligibility and academic standing.
- Submit official transcripts from each institution attended to the Department of Nursing.

### Senior College

Students transferring from a senior college into the basic nursing program must submit copies of nursing course syllabi. If the transferring courses are less than five years old, courses will be evaluated for transfer on an individual basis. If courses are more than five years old, see “Returning Basic WTAMU Students and Transferring Basic Students” in this section.

### Community College

Students transferring from a community college into the basic nursing program may transfer selected nursing courses after copies of all course syllabi have been submitted, reviewed and approved. If the transferring courses are not over five years old, courses will be evaluated for transfer on an individual basis. If courses are greater than five years old, see “Returning Basic WTAMU Students and Transferring Basic Students” in this section.

## Returning Basic WTAMU Students and Transferring Basic Students

Any basic/traditional student, WTAMU or transferring, who has not been enrolled in clinical nursing courses in the past five years, must demonstrate competency by examination prior to being rescheduled into the nursing curriculum. A course-specific exam, which will be a standardized test, will be given. The exam may be taken one time. A fee is charged for each exam. If the student is unsuccessful, the student will be scheduled into that/those clinical course(s) as space is available. For further information, refer to “Advanced Placement and Credit by Examination” in this catalog.

Curriculum Guide (suggested course sequence)			
Major in Nursing—Basic and Transfer Students			
First Year		Second Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
ENGL 1301* .....3 hrs. NSCI 1372 or CHEM 1405 or 1411* .....3-4 hrs. SCOM 1315 or 1321 .....3 hrs. MATH 1314 or 1324* .....3 hrs. NURS 1171 .....1 hr. PHED 1111 .....1 hr. 14-15 hrs.	Visual/Performing arts .....3 hrs. HIST 1301 .....3 hrs. ENGL 1302* .....3 hrs. PSYC 2301* .....3 hrs. BIOL 2401* .....4 hrs. 16 hrs.	SOCI 1301** .....3 hrs. BIOL 2402* .....4 hrs. PSYC 2314** .....3 hrs. NURS 2471 .....4 hrs. NURS 2271 .....2 hrs. NURS 2375 .....3 hrs. 19 hrs.	BIOL 2420 or 2572*** .....4-5 hrs. HIST 1302 .....3 hrs. NURS 1322*** .....3 hrs. NURS 2472 .....4 hrs. NURS 2374 .....3 hrs. 17-18 hrs.
Third Year		Fourth Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
POSC 2305 .....3 hrs. NURS 3304 <sup>†</sup> .....3 hrs. NURS 3310 .....3 hrs. NURS 3431 .....4 hrs. NURS 3532 .....5 hrs. 18 hrs.	ENGL 2332 .....3 hrs. POSC 2306 .....3 hrs. NURS 3451 .....4 hrs. NURS 3552 .....5 hrs. NURS 3360 .....3 hrs. 18 hrs.	ENGL 2332 .....3 hrs. 4321 .....3 hrs. NURS 4322 .....3 hrs. NURS 4331 .....3 hrs. NURS 4332 .....3 hrs. 15 hrs.	NURS 4341 .....3 hrs. NURS 4351 .....3 hrs. NURS 4693 .....6 hrs. 12 hrs.

\*Prerequisite to NURS 2471.  
\*\*Must be completed prior to or concurrently with NURS 2471.  
\*\*\*Must be completed before progressing to 3000-level courses.  
<sup>†</sup>Or an equivalent 3000-level statistics course.  
NOTE: NURS 1171 is required for basic and transfer nursing majors.

## Major in Nursing—For Licensed Vocational Nurses (Major Code: 713)

### Licensed Vocational Nurses

(For students who already are licensed vocational nurses.)

Students must enroll in NURS 1171. Credit for NURS 2471 and 2271 is given after successful completion of NCLEX-PN and licensure as an LVN.

Curriculum Guide (suggested course sequence)			
Major in Nursing—Licensed Vocational Nurse			
First Year		Second Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
ENGL 1301* .....3 hrs. NSCI 1372 or CHEM 1405 or 1311* .....3-4 hrs. HIST 1301 .....3 hrs. MATH 1314 or 1324* .....3 hrs. NURS 1171 .....1 hr. PHED 1111 .....1 hr. 14 hrs.	Visual/Performing arts .....3 hrs. SCOM 1315 or 1321 .....3 hrs. ENGL 1302* .....3 hrs. PSYC 2301* .....3 hrs. BIOL 2401* .....4 hrs. 16 hrs.	SOCI 1301** .....3 hrs. BIOL 2402** .....4 hrs. PSYC 2314** .....3 hrs. NURS 2471 <sup>†</sup> .....4 hrs. NURS 2271 <sup>†</sup> .....2 hrs. NURS 2375 .....3 hrs. 19 hrs.	BIOL 2420 or 2572*** .....4-5 hrs. HIST 1302 .....3 hrs. NURS 1322*** .....3 hrs. NURS 2472 .....4 hrs. NURS 2374 .....3 hrs. 17-18 hrs.
Third Year		Fourth Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
POSC 2305 .....3 hrs. NURS 3304 <sup>†</sup> .....3 hrs. NURS 3310 .....3 hrs. NURS 3431 .....4 hrs. NURS 3532 .....5 hrs. 18 hrs.	ENGL 2332 .....3 hrs. POSC 2306 .....3 hrs. NURS 3451 .....4 hrs. NURS 3552 .....5 hrs. NURS 3360 .....3 hrs. 18 hrs.	NURS 4321 .....3 hrs. NURS 4322 .....3 hrs. NURS 4331 .....3 hrs. NURS 4332 .....3 hrs. Humanities .....3 hrs. 15 hrs.	NURS 4341 .....3 hrs. NURS 4351 .....3 hrs. NURS 4693 .....6 hrs. 12 hrs.

\*Prerequisite to NURS 2471.  
\*\*Must be completed prior to or concurrently with NURS 2471.  
\*\*\*Must be completed before progressing to 3000-level courses.  
<sup>†</sup>Or an equivalent 3000-level statistics course.  
<sup>†</sup>Credit for NURS 2471 is given after successful completion of NCLEX-PN and licensure as an LVN.  
NOTE: NURS 1171 is required for LVN students.

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## Major in Nursing—For Registered Nurses (Major Code: 718)

### Registered Nurses

Application to the Department of Nursing can be made after completion of approximately 48 hours of core curriculum. The applicant must be a licensed registered nurse in good standing upon admission to the nursing program; criminal background checks may be required. Credit for previous nursing course work and practice knowledge will be held in escrow until successful completion of the final course in the RN degree completion program. See the curriculum guide for RN degree completion.

### Core Curriculum and Additional Nursing Requirements (63/64 credit hours)

- BIOL 2420 or 2572, 2401, 2402.
- Basic chemistry course with a lab or NSCI 1372.
- MATH 1314, 1324 or 1332.
- POSC 2305, 2306.
- PSYC 2301, 2314.
- SCOM 1315, 1318 or 1321.
- PHED 1111 or activity PE.
- SOCI 1301.
- Three hours from HUMA 1315, ARTS 1303, 1304, MUSI 1208, 1209, 1306 or THRE 1310.
- Three hours from ENGL 23332 or 2333, 2371, HIST 2372, PHIL 1301 or SPAN 2312.

### Curriculum Guide (suggested course sequence)

#### Major in Nursing—Registered Nurse

Remaining Nursing Requirements		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
NURS 3325 .....3 hrs.	NURS 3360 .....3 hrs.	NURS 4335 .....3 hrs.
NURS 3335 .....3 hrs.	NURS 3355 .....3 hrs.	NURS 4345 .....3 hrs.
NURS 3345 .....3 hrs.	NURS 4625 .....6 hrs.	NURS 4365 .....3 hrs.
NURS 3304 .....3 hrs.	Elective .....3 hrs.	Elective .....3 hrs.
12 hrs.	12 hrs.	12 hrs.

## Progression and Graduation

- A degree plan must be filed with the dean of the College of Agriculture, Nursing, Science and Engineering after 60 hours have been completed.
- A minimum grade of “C” must be maintained in all nursing, biology, chemistry, sociology, psychology and mathematics courses.
- A grade of “C” or above is required to pass a nursing course and progress through the curriculum on schedule. Progression will be determined on an individual basis for a student who earns a grade of “D” or below in a nursing course.
- Students are expected to attend all classes and clinical laboratories. (Does not apply to RN-B.S.N.)
- Microbiology, nutrition and human development must be completed prior to entering 3000-level nursing courses.
- Students must pass a comprehensive exam after completion of all 2000-level nursing courses before progressing to 3000-level nursing courses and after completion of all 3000-level nursing courses before progressing to 4000-level nursing courses. Students who fail a leveling comprehensive examination twice will be required to repeat identified course on a space-available basis. (Does not apply to RN-B.S.N.)
- Only 70 hours in the nursing major may be counted toward the B.S.N. degree.
- Of the final 30 hours toward a degree, 24 hours must be residence credit. (CLEP, Challenge and correspondence courses are not resident credit courses.) No more than 66 hours may be transferred from a junior college.
- Students must comply with all rules and policies as set forth in the *Department of Nursing Handbook* and in the *West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life*.
- Basic senior students must pass a comprehensive nursing examination prior to graduation. Students who do not pass the comprehensive exam must complete an individualized plan of study, which may include enrollment in additional courses, before graduation.
- Students who withdraw before the 12th class day (fourth class day for summer sessions) will have no record of the semester on their transcripts except a notation “Student withdrew without earning credit (date).” If a student withdraws before the end of the eighth week of a semester, the third week of a summer session or the mid-point of a specially scheduled course, the grade “X” (drop/withdraw passing) will be recorded on the transcript. If a student withdraws after that time, a grade of pass (“X”) or fail (“F”) is assigned for all courses that semester.

For information about the master of science in nursing (M.S.N.) degree, refer to the “Graduate School” section of this catalog.