

TO: Prospective RN to BSN Degree Students

FROM: WTAMU Department of Nursing

The Department of Nursing at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) is pleased to know of your interest in our on-line completion program **for students/nurses who already hold an active, unencumbered RN license**. As a professional nurse, continuing to pursue a BSN and MSN are valuable goals, and we appreciate that you are considering WTAMU.

West Texas A&M University is a member of The Texas A&M University System and is the primary source for higher education, research and service for the upper Texas Panhandle region. In recent years, West Texas A&M University's RN-BSN degree track program has been recognized in numerous educational rankings publications including [U.S. News and World Report](#) and #1 Most Affordable on [TopRNtoBSN.com](#). The nursing program at WTAMU serves hundreds of transfer colleges across the country and has received nearly **50** national rankings since 2014. **ADN RNs who are interested in a quality nursing education that is accessible, flexible and affordable choose WTAMU!**

### Quality Nursing Education

- WTAMU's RN-BSN degree track is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)\*. The program is approved through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Board of Nursing. *\*The baccalaureate degree program in nursing at West Texas A&M University is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).*
- Dr. Marietta Branson is the Associate Department Head for Alternative Programs and is the coordinator of the RN Completion Program. Dr. Branson holds a Doctor of Health Sciences degree (DHSc) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), with an emphasis in Administration. Dr. Branson is the lead instructor and has been teaching in higher education for over 15 years. Additional RN nursing faculty includes quality instructors with 15-20 years of nursing education experience.
- The RN to BSN nursing program's focus is to educate RNs about the nursing role related to a Baccalaureate nursing education. Focused learning will be on Caring, Therapeutic Nursing Intervention, Communication, and Critical Thinking. BSN nursing courses include such topics as leadership, management, cultural competencies, research and biostatistics in healthcare. The BSN education also prepares students for an advanced level nursing education, should they choose to pursue a master's level education in the future.

**Contact Information: 806.651.2654; Dr. Marietta Branson, Coordinator;  
or Deanna Moore, Nursing Admission Counselor; [Nursing@wtamu.edu](mailto:Nursing@wtamu.edu)**



## Accessible and Flexible

The RN-BSN degree track is completely on-line with three entry opportunities which include fall, spring, and summer semesters. The program may be completed in as little as 12 months for a full-time enrolled student or a customized sequence specific to a student's schedule needs. (Not all courses are offered every semester, so we will customize a plan of study that best suits your specific schedule needs.) Admission to the University and the Nursing Department is relatively easy. *See Steps for Moving Forward section for details.*

Practical or clinical experience to apply new knowledge in several of the courses is achieved by simulated scenarios, case studies, or mentored experiences. There are no pre-scheduled clinical hours or campus attendance required.

## Affordable



WTAMU offers a very reasonable standard tuition and fees cost, for both in-state and out-of-state RN-BSN students. To review the approximate [Cost of Attendance](http://www.wtamu.edu/business-office-cost-of-attendance.aspx), access the webpage; <http://www.wtamu.edu/business-office-cost-of-attendance.aspx>

Additionally, RN-BSN degree students (who have applied for scholarships) will receive a special **\$225 per RN to BSN course scholarship** for the 10 required RN to BSN nursing courses (beginning SP19), resulting in a tuition cost **as low as \$8,250** for Texas residents completing in one year. This scholarship includes the RN-BSN/MSN pathway students and the Out-of-State students. *Standard University tuition rates apply to core/nursing pre-requisite courses.*

WTAMU also has numerous financial aid programs and other scholarship opportunities. <http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/financial-aid.aspx>

## Why a Baccalaureate Nursing Education?

*"Baccalaureate nursing programs encompass all of the course work taught in associate degree and diploma programs plus a more in-depth treatment of the physical and social sciences, nursing research, public and community health, nursing management, and the humanities. The additional course work enhances the student's professional development, prepares the new nurse for a broader scope of practice, and provides the nurse with a better understanding of the cultural, political, economic, and social issues that affect patients and influence healthcare delivery. For more than a decade, policymakers, healthcare authorities, and practice leaders have recognized that education makes a difference when it comes to nursing practice."*

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Fact-Sheets/Impact-of-Education>

A BSN degree for an RN can:

- Lead to advancement into management and other healthcare career positions
- Create more opportunities for higher wages in more diverse fields
- Create greater employment potential across the state and nationally
- Prepare students to enter Master of Science in Nursing programs

Thank you for considering West Texas A&M University's RN-BSN degree track. We are confident we can offer you a quality RN-BSN education that is flexible and affordable. We look forward to partnering with you to continue your nursing education!

**West Texas A&M University**  
**Advising Services Degree Checklist**  
**2018-2019**

**Nursing—For Registered Nurses**  
 Department of Nursing - OM 313; 651-2630

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing**  
 BSN.NURS.RN (718)

CORE CURRICULUM COURSES: 42 HOURS ♦		HRs
Communication (Code 10)		
ENGL 1301 Introduction to Academic Writing and Argumentation	3	
COMM 1315, 1318, or 1321	3	
Mathematics (Code 20)		
MATH 1314*, 1316*, 1324*, 1325*, 1332*/**, 1342*/**, 1350*/**, 2412*, or 2413* (extra MATH hour moves to Code 80) NOTE: MATH 1332 satisfies the prerequisite for CHEM 1405, but not 1411. MATH 1342 and 1350 do not satisfy the prerequisite for either CHEM 1405 or 1411.	3	
Life and Physical Sciences (Code 30)		
See University Core Requirements below	(6)	
Language, Philosophy and Culture (Code 40)		
ANTH 2351, ENGL 2321*, 2326*, 2331*, 2341*, 2343*, HIST 2311, 2323, 2372; MCOM 1307; PHIL 1301, 2374; SPAN 2311*, 2312*/**, 2313*, 2315*, 2371 Choose 1	3	
Creative Arts (Code 60)		
ARTS 1303, ARTS 1304; DANC 2303; MUSI 1306, MUSI 1307, MUSI 1310; or THRE 1310 Choose 1	3	
American History (Code 80)		
HIST 1301, 1302, 2301, 2381 (recommend taking in summer or intersession) Choose 2	6	
Government/Political Science (Code 70)		
POSC 2305 and 2306 (recommend taking in summer or intersession)	6	
Social and Behavioral Sciences (Code 90)		
See University Core Requirements below	(3)	
Institutionally Designated Option (80)		
Take four hours from: ♦ AGRI 2300; BIOL lab hours (from Code 30); BUSI 1304; CHEM lab hours (from Code 30); CIDM 1105, CIDM 1301 or 1315; CS 1301; ENGL 1101, 1302*/**, 2311*/**, ENVR lab hour (from Code 30); GEOL lab hours (from Code 30); IDS 1071 (1-3 hours); extra MATH hours (from Code 20); PHIL 2303; PHYS lab hours (from Code 30)	4	
See University Core Requirements below	(2)	

**NURSING—FOR REGISTERED NURSES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 89-91**  
 A grade of "C" or better must be earned in all courses required for major.

UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS: 11 HOURS	
CORE 30 BIOL 2401*[3] Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
CORE 30 BIOL 2402*[3] Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
CORE 80 PSYC 2301 General Psychology	3
CORE 80 BIOL 2401L[1] and 2402L[1]	2
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: 14-15 HOURS	
PSYC 2308 Child Development PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development	3
BIOL 2420*, 2420L Applied Microbiology OR BIOL 2572*, 2572L Microbiology	4-5
CHEM 1405*, 1405L General Chemistry OR CHEM 1411*, 1411L Chemistry I	4
NURS 3304*-70 Elementary Biostatistics in Health Care Research	3

NURSING MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 64 HOURS	
Credits for previous nursing course work and practice knowledge (34 hours total) will be held in escrow until successful completion of the final course in the RN to BSN degree completion program.	
REQUIRED IN-RESIDENCE (ONLINE) NURSING COURSES: 30 HOURS	
NURS 3325*-70 Integration into Professional Nursing	3
NURS 3355*-70 Cultural Competence for Health Promotion	3
NURS 4345*-70 Professional Nursing Leadership/Mgt.	3
NURS 4365*-70 Practice of Professional Nursing	3
NURS 3345*-70 Pharmacotherapeutics Applied to Pathophysiology	3
NURS 3360*-70 Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 3375*-70 Quality Management and Informatics	3
NURS 4335*-70 Issues in Health Care Delivery	3
NURS 4323*-70 Nursing Decisions for Populations	3
NURS 4385*-70 Concepts in Legal and Ethical Nursing	3
MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE DEGREE	120

♦ The core curriculum must total **exactly 42 hours**; excess hours must be moved to the major as an elective or a major requirement and stay within the 120-hour requirement or approved total submitted to the Coordinating Board for degree requirements. Some majors specify particular courses to meet core curriculum requirements when options are available.  
 \* Indicates prerequisites—see catalog for more information.  
 \*\* While MATH 1332, 1342 and 1350 will fulfill core math requirements, they will NOT prepare students for higher-level math courses such as Plane Trigonometry (MATH 1316) or Pre-Calculus (MATH 2412).  
 \*\*\* Or an equivalent course (second year, second semester) in a foreign language.  
 \*\*\*\* Recommended.

NOTE: RN to BSN students (Major Code 718) are required to complete in-residence 30 credits of course work, all of which are upper-division (3000-4000). The minimum requirement of 39 hours of advanced credits is met with the completion of 30 NURS credits in the program or other upper level courses used for substitutions in the program, as described above, with the remaining 9 credits of upper division being waived.

**Note: This is NOT a degree plan. After completing 30 hours, students are encouraged to request an official degree plan by using the online [Degree Plan Request](#) form. The dean's office of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, located in Old Main, Room 402 (or call 806-651-3500), can answer questions about the degree plan. Students who have completed 45 hours will not be allowed to progress without requesting a degree plan.**

## Accelerated RN-BSN/MSN Program

For qualified WTAMU RN-BSN degree students who desire an advanced master's level education, an accelerated RN-BSN/MSN program may be a good option. This program reduces the number of required RN-BSN courses, from 30 to 21 hours for MSN admission eligibility. Three specific RN-BSN nursing courses are waived for MSN application, and upon completion of the MSN education the RN student is awarded dual – the BSN and MSN – degrees.

Applications for the RN-BSN/MSN program are considered for both MSN specialization – Comprehensive MSN and the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track MSN. The application process is the same for RN-BSN/MSN students as traditional MSN applicants. Please see the MSN information packet and webpage for more details on the MSN application process at the appropriate time in the sequence. Qualified RN-BSN/MSN applicants are guaranteed admission to the online Comprehensive MSN program with the completion of the application process. Competitive admission into the FNP program is considered, but not all qualified RN-BSN/MSN applicants may be accepted to this specialization track.

If the student decides not complete the combined RN-BSN/MSN program requirements, all 30 hours of RN-BSN nursing courses must be completed to receive the BSN degree.

Core and nursing pre-requisite requirements are the same as the checklist above, but for RN-BSN/MSN eligibility the following RN-BSN courses can be waived.

<b>NURSING MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 64 HOURS</b>		
Credits for previous nursing course work and practice knowledge (34 hours total) will be held in escrow until successful completion of the final course in the RN to BSN degree completion program.		
<b>REQUIRED IN-RESIDENCE (ONLINE) NURSING COURSES FOR RN to BSN/MSN IS 21 HOURS</b>		
NURS 3325*-70 Integration into Professional Nursing	3	
NURS 3355*-70 Cultural Competence for Health Promotion	3	
NURS 4345*-70 Professional Nursing Leadership/Mgt.	3	
NURS 4365*-70 Practice of Professional Nursing	3	
NURS 3345*-70 Pharmacotherapeutics Applied to Pathophysiology	3	Waived
NURS 3360*-70 Evidence-Based Practice	3	
NURS 3375*-70 Quality Management and Informatics	3	
NURS 4335*-70 Issues in Health Care Delivery	3	Waived
NURS 4323*-70 Nursing Decisions for Populations	3	Waived
NURS 4385*-70 Concepts in Legal and Ethical Nursing	3	
<b>MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED FOR MSN ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>21</b>	



## Steps toward moving forward with admission to WTAMU

- **APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY:** The University admission application process is explained at: <http://www.wtamu.edu/admissionshub/default.aspx>. (University application fee is payable on-line.)
  - Request the official transcripts from all higher education schools attended be sent to WTAMU.
  - The Admissions Office will make a decision regarding your university application and complete your university admission process. *Providing appropriate unofficial transcripts could potentially expedite your admission acceptance.*
  - The Admissions Office will prepare an Official Transfer Equivalency Report for all courses that you have taken at other colleges or universities.
  - **NOTE TO FOREIGN STUDENTS:** If you do **not** have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, you must make application to the University through the International Student Office, located in SUB 107B, (806) 651-2073.
- **APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING FOR ADMISSION:** The application to the RN to BSN track can be accessed on-line at [West Texas A&M University: Nursing \(RN\) Track](#). Click on **Application for the RN-B.S.N. degree link** to access the RN to BSN Nursing Application. A non-refundable \$50 nursing application fee must accompany your application to the Department of Nursing. When paying by check, please write your driver's license number in the memo section on the check.)

Please send your completed RN to BSN application to the address on the application.

  - The nursing application deadlines to start coursework are the University registration deadline dates listed on the website prior to each semester (FA, SP, SU).
  - Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited ADN or diploma school program.
  - Applicants must hold an active, unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse with the state in which they practice.
  - Completion of a criminal background check is required on all applicants before admission to the nursing program; *(students with a new RN license less than one year are exempt, or fingerprint license renewal proof within the last year)*. WTAMU maintains an agreement with [Castlebranch.com](#), who will provide the necessary background check at an approximate charge of \$40.75. **The background check must be requested and the date completed noted on your nursing application.**
  - Provide proof of CPR and immunizations as required by the Texas Department of Health; Texas Administrative Code, Rule §97.64 Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education
- **GET ADVISED, GREEN-LIGHTED, AND REGISTERED FOR COURSES**
  - Once you have been accepted as a WTAMU student, and your Nursing Department application is received, you will be assigned an academic adviser.
  - Your adviser will review your core academic credits and advise you on what courses they suggest in order to move forward with the BSN degree requirements.
  - A recommended plan of study will be created with your adviser with a schedule that meets the pace that is best suited for your specific needs.
  - You will also be requested to file an official degree plan with the College Dean's office.

Your acceptance into the program will be based upon completion of the application requirements as well as your academic progress.

## Important Additional Information

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

---

[Application to the Department of Nursing RN to BSN track](#) can be made after completion of approximately 48 hours of core curriculum.

- The applicant must be a licensed registered nurse in good standing with the Board of Nursing or obtain registered nurse licensure with three (3) months of graduation from an associate degree or diploma program.
- Criminal background checks are required for students who have a nursing license more than one-year old, or if it has been longer than 1 year since your RN license renewal with a fingerprint.
- 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 degree checklist for RN degree completion.

### PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION

---

- A degree plan must be filed with the dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences after 30 hours have been completed.
- A minimum grade of "C" must be maintained in all biology, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, and nursing courses. Progression will be determined on an individual basis for a student who earns a grade of "D" or below in a nursing course.
- Of the final 36 hours toward a degree, 30 hours must be residence credit. (CLEP, Challenge and correspondence courses are not resident credit courses.)
- 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*.
- Students who withdraw before the 12th class day (fourth class day for summer sessions) will have a record of the semester on their transcript with a notation, "Student withdrew without earning credit (date)." Students withdrawing after the 12th class day, but before midterm, will receive a grade of "X" (withdraw passing).
- Students leaving the University without making arrangements to withdraw through the Office of the Registrar will automatically receive an "F" in all classes.
- RN-BSN degree students (Major Code 718) are required to complete in-residence 30 hours of NURS courses, all of which are upper division. The minimum requirement of 39 hours of advanced credits is met with the completion of 30 NURS credits, as described above, with the remaining 9 credits of upper division being waived.
- The previous page is an **unofficial** degree checklist; it is **not** a degree plan. A student should request an official degree plan in the office of the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences after completion of 30 hours of academic course work. (Not doing so will prevent a student from registering.)
- Financial Aid and Scholarships are available. Priority eligibility for scholarships each year is February 1 for the upcoming academic year. Applications are available on the web at: [West Texas A&M University: Scholarships](#)
- The RN-BSN Degree track includes the holding of a block of nursing credits in escrow until the final WTAMU nursing course is successfully completed. Because the NCLEX-RN is a nationally recognized examination for basic nursing knowledge and skills, any person who has successfully been licensed as a Registered Nurse through the passing of this examination will be granted 34 escrow credit hours.

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING  
**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSING STUDENTS**

Required Vaccinations	Schedule for Vaccinations
Tetanus-diphtheria, Toxoid (Td/Tdap)*	One (1) dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) or tetanus-diphtheria toxoid with adult pertussis (Tdap) is required within the last ten (10) years.
MMR; Measles* Mumps* Rubella*	Measles; Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two (2) doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968. ( <i>The Center for Disease Control recommends, individuals born before January 1, 1957, have one dose of Measles vaccine prior to patient contact.</i> )  Rubella; Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one (1) dose of rubella vaccine.  Mumps; Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one (1) dose of mumps vaccine.
Hepatitis B*	Students shall receive a complete series (3 doses) of hepatitis B vaccine <i>prior to the start of direct patient care</i> or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus.
Varicella (chickenpox)*	Students shall receive two (2) doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age. Provide healthcare provider documentation of disease or Titer of immunity.
TB Test - Mantoux	Annual TB test. (If a student is past-positive, the results of the last chest X-ray are required.)
Annual Influenza Vaccine	Students will be required to have an annual flu vaccine.
CPR Documentation	Current CPR certification documentation.

Effective January 1, 2012, SB 1107 requires all students (under age 22 or living on campus) entering an institution of higher education (public and private) to either receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining such a vaccination before the first day of the semester. For information and waiver options regarding this university requirement: <http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/bacterial-meningitis.aspx>

For more information, see the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dated December 26, 1997, Vol. 46, and the *Supplement to Hospital Infection Control*, January 1998; or call the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Division, 1-800-252-9152.

\*See Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part 1 Department of State Health Services, Chapter 97 Communicable Diseases, Subchapter B Immunization Requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education, **Rule §97.64 Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education**, effective April 1, 2004.

**[CastleBranch.com](http://www.CastleBranch.com)**

-----Student Instructions-----

**Background Check**

West Texas A&M University Nursing Dept. has chosen [CastleBranch.com](http://www.CastleBranch.com) as an approved source for your background check.

**About CastleBranch.com**

CastleBranch.com is a service that allows students to order and purchase their own background check. The results of your background check are posted to the CastleBranch.com website in a secure, tamper-proof environment where the student, as well as the school, can view the background check.

**Ordering Instructions**

1. Go to <http://www.Castlebranch.com> and click on "Place Order".
2. In the Package Code box, enter package code: **ES85BC**.
3. The cost is \$40.75 with the payment options provided

**Retrieving Results**

Background Check: Once your order is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email containing a *password* to view the results of your background check. **Please include the date completed on the Nursing Department application.** When your background check is complete, you can view a copy at CastleBranch.com by entering your email address and the password. The results should be completed within 3-5 days.

For additional assistance, please contact the Service Desk at 888-734-4263 or visit <https://mycb.castlebranch.com/help> for further information.