Introduction: This handbook contains information frequently requested by baccalaureate nursing students. It also serves as a general resource guide to the requirements of the program. It is not intended to duplicate information available in other documents of the university and the College of Nursing. Therefore, there are many links to information that is already available at other parts of the university and College of Nursing Web sites.

Additional useful sources of information include:

- Montana State University-Bozeman Schedule of Classes (Summer 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, and Summer 2013): Link to [https://atlas.montana.edu:9000/pls/bzagent/bzskcrse.PW_SELTerm](https://atlas.montana.edu:9000/pls/bzagent/bzskcrse.PW_SELTerm); and
- Montana State University-Bozeman 2012-2013 Student Academic and Grievance Procedures and Conduct Guidelines: Link to [http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conduct_code.htm](http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conduct_code.htm)

College of Nursing Mission, Role, and Scope, Philosophy, and Expected Outcomes for the Baccalaureate Program

Mission, Role, and Scope, and Philosophy: Link to Policy A-3 [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm);

Expected Outcomes for the Baccalaureate Program: Link to the Foundational Level and Terminal Program Objectives (Policy C-13) at: [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).

Description of the Accelerated BSN Option

Accelerated students in the MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) when they complete the degree requirements. The accelerated option is a 70 semester credit curriculum which includes 15 semester credits of lower division level coursework and 55 semester credits of upper division level coursework over four consecutive terms.

General Information

- Admission to the Accelerated BSN Option: Link to [Accelerated BSN Option Application](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/academic/acceleratedbsn.htm)
  - Background Checks: Link to Policy A-36 [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm)
  - Abilities required for Success in the BSN degree program: Link to Policy A-19 [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm)

- Transfer Students/Transfer Credit: In order to facilitate transcript evaluation, transfer
students must provide an official copy of their transcript(s) to the College of Nursing at the time of application to the accelerated option. In addition, out-of-state transfer students should provide course syllabi and/or a catalog from their former institution(s), if possible. Transfer equivalencies are available at https://atlas.montana.edu:9000 for many out-of-state as well as in-state institutions.

- **Required Computer Access and Skills:**

Access to and skill in using computer hardware and software are required for students entering and continuing in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. Because some of the courses in the nursing program are web-based or web-enhanced, students must have access to and skills in using a computer and a printer. They must also have a reliable connection to the Internet with a current Internet browser. Word processing skills are required. Microsoft Word is recommended. Questions about requirements can be directed to the College of Nursing Information Technology Coordinator at (406) 994-5752 or fpettis@montana.edu.

- **Degree Requirements:** Link to Accelerated BSN Option [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/academic/acceleratedbsn.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/academic/acceleratedbsn.htm)
- **Pinning Ceremony:** Link to [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/about/pinning.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/about/pinning.htm)
- **Commencement:** Link to [http://www.montana.edu/registrar/commencement](http://www.montana.edu/registrar/commencement).

**Curriculum**

- **Mission, Role, Scope, and Philosophy:** Link to Policy A-3 [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
- **Conceptual Framework for Professional Nursing, Curricular Threads, Foundational Objectives, and Terminal Objectives:** Link to Policy C-13 [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
- **Curriculum Plan:** (Varies a bit by campus [Great Falls & Bozeman], semester, and year)

### Accelerated BSN Option Curriculum Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1 ~ SUMMER ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block #1 (12 Weeks)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course/Credit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 258 (3)¹ Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Pathophysiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block #2 (1st 6 Weeks)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 115 (2)¹ Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing as a Profession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 238 (2/2Col) Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Assessment Across the Lifespan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 341 (2/1Col) Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial Nursing Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block #3 (2nd 6 Weeks)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 220 (1/1R/D)¹ Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>³ Online</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Foundations of Ethical Nursing  
**NRSG 225 (2/2Clin)**  
Foundations for Planning & Providing...Care  
Janet Smith and Kathy Damberger

### Foundations for Planning & Providing Care  
**NRSG 336 (2/1Col)**  
Nursing Pharmacotherapeutics  
Katherine Courville

### SEMESTER 2 ~ FALL

#### Block #1 (1st 7.5 Weeks)
- **NRSG 387R (2/1Col)**  
Research in Healthcare  
Susan Luparell
- **NRSG 352 (2/3Clin)**  
Acute & Chronic Illness  
Teresa Seright
- **NRSG 377 (2)**  
Introduction to Community Based Nursing  
Cindi Spinelli

#### Block #2 (2nd 7.5 Weeks)
- **NRSG 346 (2/3Clin)**  
Nursing Care of Childbearing Family  
Cathryn Powell
- **NRSG 348 (2/3Clin)**  
Nursing Care of Children & Families  
Julie Ruff

### SEMESTER 3 ~ SPRING

#### Block #1 (1st 7.5 Weeks)
- **NRSG 444 (2/1R/D)**  
Care Management  
Christina Sieloff
- **NRSG 437 (3/3Clin)**  
Psychiatric Nursing  
Kate Jones

#### Block #2 (2nd 7.5 Weeks)
- **NRSG 418 (2)**  
Issues in Health Policy & Heath Care Economics  
Cindi Spinelli
- **NRSG 454 (3/3Clin)**  
Urgent & Palliative Care  
Teresa Seright

### SEMESTER 4 ~ SUMMER TWO

#### Block #1 (1st 6 Weeks)
- **NRSG 477 (3/3Clin)**  
Population Based Nursing Care...Community  
Cindi Spinelli

#### Block #2 (2nd 6 Weeks)
- **NRSG 487 (2/4Clin)**  
Nursing Leadership & Management Development  
Teresa Seright

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**Progression through the Nursing Program**

**Satisfactory Progress/Grading System:**

- **Acceptable Performance in Required Undergraduate Courses:** Link to Policy C-1  
  [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
- **Acceptable Performance in Undergraduate Clinical Nursing Courses:** Link to Policy C-2  
  [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
- **Grading of Laboratory Performance:** Link to Policy C-14  
  [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
- **College of Nursing Scholastic Committee:** Link to Policy A-8  
  [http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm](http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm).
Clinical Information

Background Check:
Students may not be enrolled in any clinical nursing course prior to obtaining the required Background Check through VerifiedCredentials.com at: http://www.montana.edu/nursing/student/undergrad.php Link to Policy A-36 http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm. The cost of the Background Check is $60.

Additional Expenses: Nursing students have additional expenses beyond those normally required in other curricula. Nursing students must have a uniform, current professional lifespan CPR card, and all required immunizations before enrollment in clinical coursework (NRSG 225). Other special purchases include, but are not limited to, bandage scissors, a penlight, stethoscope, etc. In addition, there is a $200 application deposit which is applied to first semester tuition and fees, and the undergraduate nursing program fee each semester of full-time enrollment in nursing courses. Student Liability Insurance is provided for nursing students at no additional cost.

Uniform Information:

Students enrolled in clinical nursing courses will need to wear a student uniform and have the appropriate accessories when practicing in the clinical facilities. The same uniform style is worn in both lower and upper division nursing courses; however, one uniform should be sufficient during the lower division semester. Navy blue Cherokee Unisex scrub tops (#4777) and drawstring pants (#4100) are widely available online.


1. Name tags: A nametag is provided to the student when enrolled in NRSG 225. If students change their name or lose their nametag, they will be responsible for replacing the nametag at their own expense. Replacements are purchased at CatCard in the Strand Union Building (SUB) for $5.00.

2. MSU arm patches: To be sewn on the left sleeve with the top edge two inches below the shoulder seam. The MSU patches are sold by *MSNA for $2.50.

3. Watches: Must have a second hand to use when calculating vital signs.

*In addition to the MSU arm patches, the Bozeman MSNA chapter sells stethoscopes, bandage scissors and penlights to support various MSNA projects. Although a stethoscope is not required in NRSG 225, they are used in NRSG 238 (Health Assessment across the Life Span) and upper division as well as later as a professional nurse. All prices are subject to change.

Travel and Transportation: Access to an automobile is necessary particularly for clinical work in the community including home visits. Public transportation is not adequate in
Bozeman or Great Falls. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation. Link to Policies A-39 and A-40
http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.

- **Varied Schedules:** Students are expected to participate in clinical experiences in a variety of community agencies and at variously scheduled times. Therefore, students must arrange to accommodate an irregular academic schedule that may include evening and weekend hours.
- **Student Refusal of a Clinical Assignment:** Link to Policy C-12
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- **Removal of Undergraduate Students from Clinical Settings:** Link to Policy C-6
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- **Student Attendance at Clinical Course Orientation:** Link to Policy C-7
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- **Undergraduate Student Skills Inventory:** Link to Policy C-10
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- **Evaluation of Faculty by Students:** Link to Policy E-6
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.

**Health and Immunization Requirements**
- **University requirements:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwhs/
- **College of Nursing requirements:** Link to Policies A-31, A-32, A-33, and A-34
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.

**Student Resources**
- **Library:** Link to http://www.lib.montana.edu/.
- **Tutoring (TRIO Student Support Services):** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwabc/.
- **Writing Center:** Link to http://www1.english.montana.edu/wc/.
- **Student Health Service:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwhs/.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwcc/.
- **Disability, Re-Entry and Veterans Services:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwres/.
- **MSU American Indian Research Opportunities:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwai/.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities**
- **Class/Clinical Attendance**
  Children Attending College of Nursing Classes: Link to Policy A-3
  http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- **Grade Grievance Procedures:** Link to http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conduct_code.htm
- **Professional Behavior - Standards of the Nursing Profession:** Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwcat/programs/colnur.html#standards.

**Participation in University, College of Nursing and Professional Governance**
- **University:** ASMSU Link to http://www.montana.edu/wwwasmsu/.
- **College of Nursing:**
  - **Student Forum:** Check with the Campus Director on your individual campus.
  - **Student Forum Constitution at:**
    http://www.montana.edu/nursing/student/undergrad.htm.
  - **Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC):** Link to Policy G-1, Article XI
    http://www.montana.edu/nursing/facstaff/policies.htm.
- Professional Student Nurses’ Association
  - Montana Student Nurses’ Association:
    (check on your local campus)