

## Associate Degree Program Description

The component of the nursing program leading to the Associate Degree in Applied Science in Nursing provides the appropriate knowledge and skills for this level. Students are prepared to provide direct care to persons with common and well-defined alterations in functional health patterns within the family and community context.

This care is offered under the supervision of a professional nurse in structured settings. Students are prepared for the initial role as communicator, health educator, manager of care and member of the nursing profession. The curriculum is designed to offer students knowledge in the nursing sciences. This knowledge is based on the concepts and principles of the natural, social and humanistic sciences. Theoretical and clinical academic activities prepare students to search for alternatives to the solution of health problems.

Graduates from this program are expected to perform and practice the role of associate nurses guided by ethical-moral and legal values who will participate as active members of a health team in structured settings, assuming responsibility for their professional growth and for promoting nursing knowledge. The student who applies for the exit option to carry out as an Associate Graduate must perform according to the program objectives. This program consists of 63 credits. Our program is accredited by the ACEN until 2015. (Accredited commission for Nursing)

## **Nursing (A.A.S.N. and B.S.N.)**

The Nursing Program has as its mission the formation of nurses able to offer competent, sensible, effective, safe, and quality nursing care to the client person, family and community. The Program aims to produce graduates prepared to:

1. Provide care with autonomy and with interdisciplinary collaboration and sensitivity to ethical-legal and cultural values and directed to the achievement of the best results for the client.
2. Coordinate care by applying leadership and management skills that lead to the highest quality care with the minimum of cost.
3. Assume a commitment as a member of the discipline in harmony with the standards of the practice.

For the development of this professional diverse and flexible modalities of study are offered. This facilitates mobility from the level of the associate degree to the baccalaureate.

It is expected that students who decide to leave the Program to work as Associate Nurses be able to:

1. Apply theoretical and practical knowledge of the nursing, science and humanistic, disciplines when they analyze the biological, psychological, social and spiritual determinants of health in the different growth and development stages.
2. Demonstrate updated clinical skills in therapeutic interventions when offering care to the client throughout the continuum of health and disease in structured scenarios
3. Use the Nursing Process as an instrument in making clinical decisions and, simultaneously demonstrate critical thinking and skills in problem solving when offering safe, quality and cost-effective care.
4. Demonstrate responsibility and ethical-legal commitment with humanistic care in response to the changing needs of society.
5. Demonstrate effective management, coordination and collaboration skills in care as a member of the interdisciplinary team in such a way that care can improve continuously.
6. Demonstrate responsibility and commitment for self development and that of the nursing profession.
7. Use communication skills and technology to maintain the quality of care offered to the client and to improve their own knowledge.

### **Profile of the Competencies of Graduates**

This Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing is designed to develop the competencies that will permit students to:

#### **Knowledge**

1. Demonstrate scientific and humanistic knowledge of the nursing discipline when analyzing biopsychosocial and spiritual aspects in the different stages of growth and development.

2. Know the nursing process as an instrument for making clinical decisions while offering a safe and quality care.

### Skills

1. Demonstrate up-to-date clinical skills in therapeutic interventions when you offer care to the client throughout the continuum of health-disease in structured scenarios.
2. Demonstrate care management, coordination skills and effective collaboration as a member of the interdisciplinary team.
3. Use communication skills, critical thinking and the use of technology to maintain the quality of care offered to the client.

### Attitudes

1. Demonstrate responsibility and ethical-legal commitment with humanistic care in response to the changing needs of society.
2. Demonstrate responsibility and commitment with their development and that of the profession.

The Bachelor's of Science in Nursing is designed to develop the competencies that will permit students to:

### Knowledge

1. Demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge integrated into the safe and effective nursing care provided to individuals, families and communities.
2. Know the use of nursing interventions to prevent disease, and to promote, protect, maintain and restore health.
3. Know critical thinking skills to make clinical judgments and to use research findings for the continuous improvement of the nursing practice

### Skills

1. Use assessment and therapeutic interventions skills when providing nursing care in diverse scenarios so they can improve the expected health care results.
2. Apply skills of communication, collaboration, critical thought, and the use of technology as a provider and coordinator of care and as a future member of the profession.
3. Act as leaders and managers of the care that you are seeking to provide.

### Attitudes

1. Apply humanistic care in the nursing practice to promote protection, optimization and the preservation of human dignity.

Major requirements are offered in a four-year program with an option to leave the Program upon completing the requirements of the first two years. Each year is equivalent to a level in which courses have been organized and developed according to their level of complexity. In the first two years (levels I and II) technical (associate) knowledge and skills are presented; in the last two years (levels III and IV) those corresponding to the professional level (generalist) are presented. This scheme articulates both levels of preparation, (associate degree and Bachelor's Degree in nursing) by integrating knowledge and skills.

Students in the Nursing Program are exempt from taking GEHP 3000 – Well-being and Quality of Life.

## Admission Requirements

1. Comply with the admissions requirements established in the General Catalog.
2. To be a candidate for admission to the Associate and Bachelor's Program in Nursing, candidates must have a minimum grade point index 2.50 from their high school or place of origin.
3. To be a candidate for admission to the third level (third year courses) of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, students must:
  - a. Have satisfactorily completed the requirements of the first two years of the Degree in Nursing or,
  - b. Present evidence of holding an Associate Degree in Nursing from an accredited and recognized institution of higher education. Candidates having an Associate Degree must complete any general education requirement established by the Institution for awarding the degree.
  - c. Present at the time of admission to the Program evidence of any permanent license they possess.

### Requirements of Clinical Practice

To be admitted to a practice agency the following is required:

1. A current certificate of no criminal record issued by the Police of Puerto Rico.
2. A health certificate valid for one year issued by the Health Department.
3. Evidence of vaccination against Hepatitis B.
4. Evidence of vaccination against chickenpox or chickenpox titer tests.

Some agencies and courses have additional requirements. Students are responsible for complying with any other requirement imposed by the practice agency. Among these are: An updated certificate of CPR, a negative dope test, a nose and throat culture and a negative certificate of sexual offender.

### Transfer Requirements:

1. Comply with the admissions requirements for transfer students established in the General Catalog.
2. Admission of transfer students to the Program or to take courses of the major with combined registration requires the previous authorization of both Program directors.

### Academic Progress Requirements of the Nursing Program:

1. Comply with all Satisfactory Progress Norms established in the General Catalog.
2. Pass all courses in Nursing and the course GEMA 1000 (Quantitative Reasoning) with a minimum grade of C.

3. Students who do not pass a major course with a minimum grade of C in their third intent will be dropped from the Program.

## Graduation Requirements

1. For the Associate Degree in Nursing students are required to complete 50% of the major credits in the campus from which they expect to receive the degree. This also applies to the Bachelor's Degree
2. Students must take course NURS 4980 in the campus where they expect to graduate, except in special situations with the previous authorization of the Director of the Program.
3. All students who are candidates for graduation in the Associate or Bachelor's Nursing program must graduate with a minimum grade point average of 2.50.
4. Students, upon completing the requirements of the first two years of study, have the option to request certification of the Associate Degree in Nursing in order to apply for the board examination.

The Aguadilla, Arecibo, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Guayama, Metropolitan, Ponce and San Germán campuses are authorized to offer the Associate Degree in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

The Associate Program of the Metropolitan Campus is accredited by the *Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)*, formerly *National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.* (NLNAC) (<http://www.acenursing.org>).

The Bachelor's Program of the Aguadilla, Arecibo and Metropolitan campuses are accredited by the *Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)*, formerly *National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.* (NLNAC) (<http://www.acenursing.org>).

## Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing

### General Education Requirements Major Requirements

**24 credits**  
41 credits  
65

**Total**

#### General Education Requirements - 24 credits

GESP		Spanish	6
GEEN		English	6
GEMA	1000	Quantitative Reasoning	3
GEHS	2010	Historical Process of Puerto Rico	3
GECF	1010	Introduction to the Christian Faith	3
GEIC	1010	Information and Computer Literacy	3

#### Major Requirements - 41 credits

NURS	1111	Fundamentals in Nursing	4
NURS	1112	Practice of Fundamentals of Nursing	2
NURS	1130	Pharmacology Aspects	3
NURS	1231	Fundamentals of Adult Care I	6
NURS	1232	Practice of Adult Care I	2
NURS	2141	Fundamentals of Maternal-Neonatal Care	3
NURS	2142	Practice of Maternal-Neonatal Care	2
NURS	2233	Fundamentals of Adult Care II	6
NURS	2234	Practice of Adult Care II	2
NURS	2351	Fundamentals of Pediatric Care	3
NURS	2352	Practice of Pediatric Care	2
NURS	2361	Fundamentals of Psychosocial Care	3
NURS	2362	Practice of Psychosocial Care	2
NURS	2970	Transition Seminar	1

## Courses in Nursing

### **NURS 1111 FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING**

Introduction to the nursing profession and its historical evolution. Emphasis on the principles of the conceptual frame and the concepts of the Program. Includes the ethical, legal and moral aspects based on the practice standards. Discussion of the nursing process for adult care with common interferences in the functional health patterns that support physical processes. Integration of the principles and basic concepts of growth and development psycho-physiological aspects, considering cultural diversity within a safe environment. Corequisites NURS. 1112, 1130.

4 credits

### **NURS 1112 PRACTICE OF FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING**

Application of the nursing process in the care of adults with common dysfunctions in the functional health patterns that support physical functioning. Beginning of the development of clinical skills to perform in the areas of competence as care providers. Requires a total of 90 hours of laboratory in diverse scenarios. Corequisite: NURS 1111.

2 credits

### **NURS 1130 PHARMACOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN NURSING**

Discussion of relevant aspects of the study of the pharmacology including the biochemical, physiological, research and legal aspects. Use of the principles and skills of posology. Application of the nursing process in medication administration. Requires 45 hours of lecture. Corequisite: NURS 1111.

3 credits

### **NURS 1231 FUNDAMENTALS OF ADULT CARE I**

Discussion of the acute and chronic dysfunctions of health related to functional health patterns: perception and health management, nutritional-metabolic and elimination. Includes anatomical, physiopathological, microbiological, biochemical and environmental concepts that affect human functioning. Integration of communication, administration, care management, research and the nursing process skills for client care. Prerequisites: NURS 1111, 1112, 1130. Corequisite: NURS 1232.

6 credits

### **NURS 1232 PRACTICE OF ADULT CARE I**

Application of the nursing process in the care of adults with acute and chronic health dysfunctions integrating the skills of communication, care management and research. Emphasis on management of dysfunctions in the functional patterns of health: perception- management, nutritional-metabolic and elimination. Requires a total of 90 hours of clinical practice in diverse scenarios. Prerequisites: NURS 1111, 1112, 1130. Corequisite: NURS 1231.

2 credits

### **NURS 2141 FUNDAMENTALS OF MATERNAL-NEONATAL CARE**

Description of the evolution of maternal-neonatal nursing integrating the principles of the conceptual framework. Discussion of anatomical, biochemical, physiopsycological and pathological changes that affect the integral functioning of the client, before, during and after childbirth, including the normal new born during the early neonatal stage. Use of the nursing process in the study of the appropriate changes in the stages and health dysfunctions.

Prerequisite: NURS 1231. Corequisites:  
NURS 2142, 2233.

3 credits

### **NURS 2142 PRACTICE IN MATERNAL-NEONATAL CARE**

Application of the nursing process using the functional patterns of health in the care of clients during pregnancy, childbirth and post childbirth. The care of the normal newborn is included during the early neonatal stage. Requires a total of 60 hours of clinical practice in diverse scenarios. Prerequisites: NURS 1231, 1232. Corequisites: NURS 2141, 2233, 2234.

2 credits

### **NURS 2233 FUNDAMENTALS OF ADULT CARE II**

Discussion of the acute and chronic health dysfunctions related to the functional health patterns: activity-exercise, cognitive-perceptual and sexual reproduction. Includes anatomical, physiopathological, microbiological, biochemical and environmental concepts that affect the adult human functioning. Integration of communication, care management, research, and the nursing process skills and the nursing process in client's care. Prerequisite: NURS 1231. Corequisites: NURS 2141, 2142.

6 credits

### **NURS 2234 PRACTICE OF ADULT CARE II**

Application of the nursing process in the care of adults with acute and chronic health dysfunctions integrating communication, care management, and research concepts. Emphasis on the management of dysfunctions related to functional health patterns: activity-exercise, cognitive-perceptual and sexuality-reproduction.

Requires a total of 90 hours of clinical practice in diverse scenarios. Prerequisites: NURS 1231, 1232. Corequisites: NURS 2142, 2233.

2 credits

### **NURS 2351 FUNDAMENTALS OF PEDIATRIC CARE**

Discussion of the essential aspects in client care from the late normal neonatal stages to adolescence. Analysis of the dysfunctions in the functional patterns of health by using the nursing process. Use of the physiopathological and environmental concepts and the conceptual framework of curriculum. Prerequisites: NURS 2141, 2142, 2233. Corequisites: NURS 2352, 2361, 2362, 2970.

3 credits

### **NURS 2352 PRACTICING PEDIATRIC CARE**

Application of the nursing process in client care from the normal neonatal stages to adolescence. Emphasis on the management of dysfunctions affecting the functional health patterns using the concepts of curriculum as a framework. Requires 60 hours of clinical practice in diverse scenarios. Prerequisite: NURS 2234. Corequisites: NURS 2351, 2361, 2362, 2970.

2 credits

### **NURS 2361 FUNDAMENTALS**



### **OF PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE**

Discussion of theoretical models, principles and concepts of psychosocial nursing. Description of psychosocial dysfunctions of the adult using the nursing process as a framework. Includes neuroanatomy, neuropsychology, ethical-legal, research and communication concepts. Prerequisites: NURS 2233, 2141. Corequisites: NURS 2351, 2362 and 2970.

3 credits

### **NURS 2362 PRACTICE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE**

Application of the nursing process, theoretical models, principles and concepts in psychosocial care of the adult. Practice of the skills of therapeutic communication in interventions. Requires a total of 60 hours of clinical practice in diverse scenarios. Prerequisites: NURS 2142, 2234. Corequisites: NURS 2352, 2361, 2970.

2 credits

### **NURS 2970 TRANSITION SEMINAR**

Discussion of essential aspects of student transition to the labor environment. Analysis of the trends and controversies that impact health care. Review of the ethical-legal, technological and scientific implications, professional values and social and economic influences in the exercise of the profession. Development of strategies for taking the board examination. Prerequisites: NURS 2233, 2141. Corequisites: NURS 2351, 2352, 2361, 2362.

1 credit

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