

NURSING

Programs

- Nursing Major
- Accelerated Second Degree BSN Program (ASDNU)

The four components of the Egan School undergraduate nursing program are:

Core Curriculum

Nursing students must complete the core curriculum that is required of all Fairfield undergraduates.

Natural and Social Sciences

Students take one semester of chemistry and three semesters of biology that include anatomy and physiology, and microbiology. Because the social sciences form an important part of the foundation for nursing practice, students also take developmental psychology and a social and behavioral science elective.

Nursing Courses

Classroom instruction in nursing theory begins in the first year and continues throughout the undergraduate program. Instruction in nursing skills begins in the sophomore year. Nursing courses include theoretical and clinical components. With each semester, clinical hours increase. To ensure that students obtain the breadth and depth of clinical experience needed, the school has associations with many clinical facilities, including private hospitals, veterans' hospitals, clinics, outpatient departments, rehabilitation centers, public health departments, long-term care facilities, home care agencies, community health centers, and schools. Students provide their own transportation to clinical agencies, and all costs associated with clinical placements including travel, parking, background checks, and health and professional requirements, are the responsibility of the student.

Electives

Free electives in the curriculum provide students with an opportunity to explore topics of interest including the liberal arts, nursing, and minor options.

Disability Statement

Consistent with its mission and philosophy, Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies does not discriminate on the basis of disability. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the University will assist students in making reasonable accommodations that allow an otherwise qualified student with disability to meet essential eligibility requirements in order to participate in its programs. Candidates for the Nursing program must be able to meet minimum standards for clinical practice, with or without reasonable accommodations. To initiate the disability accommodation process, students are required to register as a Student with a Disability with the Office of Accessibility and provide documentation. Once registration and documentation steps are completed, students must meet with a Student Accessibility coordinator as part of the interactive process. During this meeting, the Student Accessibility Coordinator will work with the student to discuss

any disability-related barriers and needs as well as make a determination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

Students are responsible for communicating any and all accommodation requests in the clinical, lab and/or classroom setting to ensure the appropriate supports are in place. Engagement with the interactive process may be ongoing throughout the semester, and additional accommodation requests can be submitted at any point in the program.

However, accommodations are not retroactive, meaning they cannot be applied to past assignments, exams, or clinical experiences prior to the submission and approval of the accommodation requests. If a requested accommodation cannot be granted, the student will work with the Office of Accessibility to explore and identify suitable alternative accommodations.

The decision regarding appropriate accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. An accommodation will not be made in those situations where the accommodation itself would fundamentally alter the nature of the program, impose an undue hardship on the school, or jeopardize the health and safety of others. For further information refer to the Fairfield University website for "Policies for Students with Disabilities and Temporary Impairments."

Eligibility Requirements

The curricula leading to degrees in nursing from Fairfield University requires students to possess essential non-academic skills and functions required to engage in clinical practice. It is within the sole determination of Fairfield University and the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies to assess and determine whether a student meets these skills and functions. Eligibility requirements for participation and completion in the nursing program shall include, but are not limited to, the following six capabilities:

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment; student must be able to examine, interpret, analyze, and synthesize material for problem solving and evaluation of patient situations and own performance.

- Ability to assess, plan, establish priorities, implement and evaluate patient outcomes.
- Ability to calculate appropriate dosages for specific medications.
- Ability to use good judgment in establishing priorities and making appropriate decisions in client care.
- Sophisticated problem-solving skills, including calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis: ability to learn through a variety of modalities, including classroom, simulation, and clinical settings, individual and team-based learning, preparation of oral and written reports, and use of technology to support academic work.

Interpersonal and Communication

Relationship and communication abilities appropriate for interacting sensitively with individuals, families, groups and inter-professional team members from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. Ability to accurately and clearly communicate appropriate information regarding evidence-based practice, patient status and response to care, both orally and in writing.

- Interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with patients/families and members of the (inter-professional) healthcare team.
- Ability to gather and record patient data concerning history, health status and response to care.

- Ability to follow and give verbal and written reports, presentations and directions to patients, families, and members of the inter-professional health care team.
- Capacity to use data for demonstrations and oral presentations, and use visual images, sounds, and verbal and non-verbal communication to inform patient care.
- Ability to demonstrate proficiency in documentation methods and ability to maintain accurate records..
- Ability to perceive and interpret nonverbal communication.

Sensory Abilities

Ability to observe, identify, and obtain information in order to assess, plan, provide and evaluate nursing interventions; student must possess adequate sensory abilities or be able to demonstrate appropriate and safe compensation for deficits.

- Student has the ability to perceive signs of disease or infection through a physical examination by observing, monitoring, assessing and responding to any physical changes in the patient's health status. This information is derived through auditory information (patient voice, heart sounds, bowel, and lung sounds), visual information, and palpable changes in organs and tissues.
- Cognitive ability sufficient to read and understand directions, assignments, and patient documents.

Motor Skills and Mobility

Sufficient mobility, including the gross and fine motors skills needed to provide safe and competent nursing care, both routine and emergency.

- Sufficient motor skills necessary to perform or assist with physical care such as ambulating, positioning, and assisting with activities of daily living as needed.
- Fine motor skills needed for basic assessment such as palpation, auscultation, and percussion.
- Mobility sufficient to carry out patient care procedures such as suctioning, positioning, and drawing up medication into a syringe.

Behavior and Emotional Attributes

Emotional stability for providing care safely to patients and their families within a rapidly changing and often stressful healthcare environment; the ability to monitor, identify, and manage one's own and others' emotions, and use the information to guide thinking and actions.

- Integrity needed to make ethical decisions and honor the professional code of nursing.
- Ability to adjust and respond appropriately to stressful situations in the classroom or clinical setting.
- Ability to develop mature relationships with the health care team and modify behavior in response to constructive feedback.

Standards for Admission and Progression in the Nursing Curriculum

Students are required to successfully complete clinical practica involving direct patient care. By accepting admission in the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing, the student understands the program eligibility and progression requirements. Nursing students must follow all University educational policies and general regulations including those regarding academic progress.

Prerequisites

The science and psychology courses are sequential and are prerequisites to designated nursing courses. Strong foundational knowledge in the science and psychology courses is critical to success in the nursing program. Thus, students may not progress to the next semester with an incomplete in a prerequisite course. BIOL 1107 Human Anatomy and Physiology I, BIOL 1108 Human Anatomy and Physiology II, BIOL 1151 Elements of Microbiology, CHEM 1184 General Chemistry for Health Science, and PSYC 1110 Lifespan Development must be completed successfully with a minimum grade of C (73) for students to progress to the next semester in the course sequence for the nursing major. The final grade for CHEM 1184 is calculated based on grades for both the lab and theory portion.

Students unable to complete these courses successfully are expected to repeat coursework in the next semester or the summer session immediately following or they will be dismissed from the Egan School. Students consistently achieving minimum passing grades in prerequisite courses will be placed on Academic Warning. Students who do not obtain a grade of C or better in a prerequisite course may repeat the course once. If a grade of C or better in the repeated class is not earned, then the student will be dismissed from the program. A grade of less than C in three or more prerequisite courses will result in dismissal from the nursing program in the Egan School.

Nursing Courses

Nursing courses are sequential, beginning with foundational courses and progressing to increasing levels of complexity and challenge throughout the program. As students move through the curriculum, new content is integrated and builds upon previously learned material. Thus, all students must earn the minimum grade of C+ (77) in all nursing courses to progress to the next semester and continue in the program.

Further, students may not progress to the next semester with an incomplete in any nursing course. Students who do not obtain a grade of C+ or better in a nursing course may repeat the course once. A grade of less than C+ in two nursing courses (including a repeated course) will result in dismissal from the Egan School. The clinical component of all clinical nursing courses is graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass the theory and clinical component of a course to pass the entire course, regardless of their grade in the theory component. Students who fail to earn the minimum grade in either component of a clinical course must repeat the entire course. In clinical courses (Geriatrics, Medical Surgical I & II, Mental Health, Maternity and Pediatrics), an overall average of 77 is required on theory tests, final exams and ATI scores in order to successfully pass the course regardless of overall course grades. Quizzes not included. If a student withdraws from a nursing course due to it being impossible to mathematically pass the course- this counts as a failure of a nursing course. Withdrawals based on health/personal issues would not be counted as a course failure.

Fairfield University is committed to providing accommodations to students with disabilities in order to ensure equal access to programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities can begin the accommodation request process by contacting the Office of Accessibility.

Health and Professional Requirements

All clinical agencies require documentation of various professional and health information. Nursing students must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before starting clinical in their sophomore year and remain certified throughout the nursing program. Students must receive their certification through either the Health Care

Provider course offered through the American Heart Association or the Professional Rescuer or CPR/AED for Lifeguard Certification course offered through the American Red Cross. All health requirements and OSHA training requirements must be met each year prior to clinical practice.

To attend clinical, students must have an annual physical examination and comply with all health requirements of the clinical agencies and submit to the clinical tracking system used by Fairfield University nursing students. Students are responsible for uploading information and keeping all required information updated throughout their clinical experience. Students unable to comply with agency requirements will be dismissed from the program. All costs associated with agency requirements are the responsibility of the student.

Student Background Checks and Drug Testing

Nursing programs at Fairfield University requires the successful completion of the clinical component of the curriculum. Most clinical sites require students to complete health screenings, criminal background checks and drug screenings before participating in clinical placements. In addition, national certification agencies may determine that persons with criminal convictions are not eligible to sit for national certification examinations and state laws may restrict/prohibit those with criminal convictions from acquiring a professional license to practice following graduation. Therefore it is the policy of the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies that all admitted students must satisfactorily complete compliance requirements, including a background check and drug screening, prior to participating in the clinical component of the curriculum. These will be completed at the student's expense at a location designated by the University, and may be required more than once depending on the agency. Fairfield University and the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies have no obligation to refund tuition or otherwise accommodate students in the event that a criminal background check or drug screening renders the student ineligible to complete required courses or clinical placement(s).

Continuous Assessment

All nursing students participate in a comprehensive nationally standardized assessment program. This total testing program allows close monitoring of student progress and serves as the basis for individualized advisement. A testing fee will be included for all nursing students in appropriate semesters.

Licensure

All nursing students graduate with a bachelor of science degree. To obtain initial licensure as a Registered Nurse, students apply to the State Board of Nursing in the state in which they plan to practice. In addition, students register to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) at a conveniently located testing center.

All students are expected to pass the licensure exam on the first attempt. Application procedures vary by state. Information may be obtained on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website: <http://www.ncsbn.org>.

Graduation from the nursing major does not ensure eligibility for state licensure. A candidate who has been convicted of a felony or another crime in any state may be required to submit documentation about this conviction to the State Board of Nursing in which licensure is sought. Each State Board of Nursing reserves the right to make a decision on whether to grant licensure to practice as a registered nurse.

Scholastic Honors

Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society

The Mu Chi Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing was established at Fairfield University in 1992. Since then, the Chapter has grown to nearly 1000 members. The Society is committed to fostering nursing leadership, research and creativity. Standards for membership include demonstrated excellence in scholarship and/or exceptional achievement in nursing.