DIVISION OF NURSING

Associate Degree Program
The Associate Degree Program in Nursing provides a foundation in general education and nursing. Upon completion of the curriculum, an Associate of Arts degree is awarded. Graduates of the program are eligible to write the National Council for Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Graduates are prepared to provide nursing services in beginning staff level positions and have potential for advancement on an individual basis.

The traditional plan of study in the nursing program is two years (five semesters) in length, and classes are admitted each fall and spring semester. Clinical laboratory experiences are available in Memphis and in Northwest Mississippi hospitals and agencies. All prospective students should be advised by an associate degree nursing adviser on the Senatobia campus from the list provided.

A minimum grade of “C” or better is required in every course outlined in the nursing curriculum for graduation. The Division of Nursing reserves the right to recommend for continuation only those students who, in the judgment of the faculty, satisfy the requirements and aptitude for nursing.

In compliance with the amended Section 73-15-29 from the 2010 Mississippi Nursing Practice Act (www.msbn.ms.gov), all students enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program are among those subject to criminal background checks before being allowed to provide patient care. Applicants must provide a list of all prior arrests, convictions, and pending charges. Proof of disposition of charges must be provided upon admission to the Division of Nursing. If at any time, the determination is made that a student, as a result of the background check, is not eligible to attend clinical, the student will not be allowed to remain in the nursing program. The Mississippi Board of Nursing requires that graduates are also fingerprinted by the Mississippi Board of Nursing prior to sitting for the licensing exam (NCLEX-RN).

All prospective nursing students must note Section 73-15-29 of the Mississippi Nursing Practice Act which states:

Grounds for denying, revoking, or suspending license penalties for engaging in prohibited conduct.

1. The Board shall have power to revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any license issued by the Board, or to deny any application for a license, or to fine, place on probation and/or discipline a license, in any manner specified in this chapter upon proof that such person:
   a. has committed fraud or deceit in securing or attempting to secure a license;
   b. has been convicted of a felony, or a crime involving moral turpitude or has had accepted by a court a plea of nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude (see entire section at www.msbn.ms.gov).

All nursing students must be free of any chemical impairment. All students will have initial drug screening and are subject to additional drug screens according to the Nursing Division Drug and Alcohol Policy. Students with a positive drug screen will be dismissed from the program, with eligibility to reapply in 3 years.

The Mississippi Board of Nursing states the board has the power to deny, revoke or suspend a nursing license upon proof of one of the following: addiction to or dependency on alcohol or other habit forming drugs or is a habitual user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs having similar effect (Section 73-15-29: Nursing Practice Act).
Nursing students must be able to demonstrate certain essential functions noted in the Student Health Record in order to participate in clinical experiences and care for patients in the clinical area. The Student Health Record, including the essential functions, is available on the Northwest website. Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations should register with the campus Disability Support Services officer. Approval of special accommodations while in the program will not guarantee approval for special accommodations for taking NCLEX-RN.

All students are required to provide proof of negative tuberculosis (TB) status, immunizations or proof of immunity to MMR/varicella/hepatitis, proof of Tdap and influenza vaccine before attending the first clinical rotation. No exceptions are allowed for this requirement. If a student is pregnant or breastfeeding and cannot have immunizations, they must withdraw before the first clinical rotation. They will be accepted into the next class without re-applying to the program if the requirements are met. The withdrawal for this reason is not counted toward the two withdrawals allowed. Specific information regarding health requirements including all immunizations can be found in the Nursing Student Handbook on the website.

A computer with internet access is required for electronic books, resources and communication via CANVAS. Students may use computers at the Learning Resource Center (library), however it is recommended that the student have a computer and internet access at home.

**SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

Due to the purpose and objectives of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, the requirements for admission to the program differ from the general admission requirements. Meeting the minimum standards for admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the Nursing Program. The number of students admitted each semester is dependent upon educational resources available to the school. Two classes are admitted each year. The fall class is notified in March, and the spring class is notified in October each year. Application forms for admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program are available online on the College's website at www.northwestms.edu. Applications are ONLY accepted between January 1-February 15 for the fall semester and between August 1-September 15 for the spring semester. Applications must be resubmitted each semester for reconsideration.

**Admission Requirements:** College admission forms should be sent to the Office of Admissions and Records, and the application to the nursing program should be submitted online to the Nursing Division. ONLY Mississippi residents are admitted to the nursing program.

Students under 18 years of age must have parental consent to apply and be 18 years of age before entering the first nursing course (NUR 1118).

Students are chosen by the admission committee based on the following criteria and a competitive point system: (1) an Enhanced ACT composite score of 19 or greater (students who hold a bachelor's degree and Licensed Practical Nurses are considered for admission with a composite ACT score of 18); (2) completion of College Algebra (MAT 1313) with a grade of "C" or better; (3) completion of BIO 2513 and BIO 2511 and BIO 2523 and 2521 with a grade of "C" or better within the last 7 years; (4) GPA 2.5 and (5) additional admission test may be required. Refer to the admissions procedure and point calculation information on the Nursing Division page of the Northwest website (www.northwestms.edu) for detailed information.

Each applicant must ensure that his or her file in the nursing office is complete by the February 15 deadline for fall applicants and the September 15 deadline for spring applicants. This includes but may not be limited to: application, high school transcripts, HSE scores, ACT scores and all other college transcripts. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the nursing office if any information changes.
Notification of acceptance must come from the Director, Division of Nursing. Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to nursing. Places will not be held for admitted students more than two semesters. There is no waiting list! Students who have not met the prerequisites will be accepted conditionally and will be required to withdraw if those courses are not successfully completed.

Transfer Students: All students desiring to transfer from another nursing program must consult with the Director. All transfer applicants must be in good standing and eligible for continuation in the previous college and nursing program attended. Additionally, all admission criteria must be met—including the Anatomy and Physiology I and II and College Algebra requirements—prior to transfer into the program. Transcripts from the previous college must be submitted to the Director of the Division of Nursing for prior approval to be applied toward an Associate Degree in Nursing. The applicant will also be asked to submit proof of content for any courses considered for transfer. This may include but not be limited to: course outlines, course syllabi, reading lists, etc. All eligible transfer students are accepted on a space available basis.

Nursing students who fail one nursing course are readmitted according to space availability. Failure of two required nursing courses, excluding NUR 2222, results in dismissal from the program. Students will be allowed a total of two nursing course withdrawals throughout the program. A third withdrawal from a nursing course will result in dismissal from the program. Student dismissed for two withdrawals or two nursing course failures are eligible to reapply in three years.

Advanced Standing for Licensed Practical Nurses: LPNs have the opportunity to seek advanced standing in the Associate Degree Nursing Program by: (1) successfully completing challenge examinations and performance of required skills which allows entry into the second semester of the traditional study program, or (2) applying for the LPN-RN Transition course completed during an eight-week summer term which allows entry into the final two semesters of the traditional study program. For further information, prospective students may access the information on the College’s website at www.northwestms.edu. Acceptance in the LPN Advanced Placement options requires completion of the pre-requisite courses or acceptable substitute courses as listed in the LPN Challenge or LPN-RN Transition plans of study.

All transcripts and documents submitted in support of an application or clinical requirement documentation become the property of Northwest Mississippi Community College and cannot be returned, copied or forwarded to another individual or school.

All required science courses that have been completed prior to entering the nursing program must have been taken within the past seven years.

The Division of Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) located at 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326 (phone number 404-975-5000) (www.acenursing.org) and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6453 (phone number 601-432-6198, www.ihl.state.ms.us).

Traditional Plan of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-REQUISITES</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2513, Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2511, Anatomy and Physiology I Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2523, Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2521, Anatomy and Physiology II Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 1313, College Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FRESHMAN YEAR

First Semester    Semester Hours
NUR 1118, Foundations of Nursing... 8
ENG 1113, English Comp. I............ 3
CSC 1113, Computer Concepts.......... 3

Second Semester    Semester Hours
NUR 1318, Adult Health I............. 8
ENG 1123, English Comp. II........... 3
EPY 2533, Human Growth and
Development*.......................... 3

Total                   14       Total                   14

SOPHOMORE YEAR

First Semester    Semester Hours
NUR 2128, Maternal-Child Nursing... 8
PSY 1513, General Psychology......... 3
BIO 2923, Microbiology*.............. 3
BIO 2921, Microbiology Lab*.......... 1

Second Semester    Semester Hours
NUR 2318, Adult Health II............ 8
NUR 2222, Nursing Seminar............. 2
SPT 1113, Public Speaking I.......... 3
Humanities Elective................... 3

Total                   15       Total                   16

Note: Human Growth and Development must be completed with a "C" or better before NUR 2128. Microbiology
must be completed with a "C" or better before NUR 2318. Otherwise, only the nursing courses must be taken
in the sequence noted above.

See the Division of Nursing page on the Northwest website (www.northwestms.edu) for Licensed Practical Nurse
advanced placement options and details.

LPN Challenge Plan of Study

PRE-REQUISITES
BIO 2513, Anatomy and Physiology I 3 hours
BIO 2511, Anatomy and Physiology I Lab 1 hour
BIO 2523, Anatomy and Physiology II 3 hours
BIO 2521, Anatomy and Physiology II Lab 1 hour
ENG 1113, English Composition I 3 hours
MAT 1313, College Algebra 3 hours

TOTAL 14 hours

LPN CHALLENGE EXAMINATIONS

First Semester    Semester Hours
NUR 1318, Adult Health I............. 8
CSC 1113, Computer Concepts........... 3
ENG 1123, English Composition II..... 3
EPY 2533, Human Growth and
Development*.......................... 3

Total                   17

* College Algebra is a pre-requisite to the nursing program if the math component of the ACT is <19. EPY 2533 must
be completed with a "C" or better before NUR 2128.
LPN-RN Transition Plan of Study

PRE-REQUISITES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2513, Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2511, Anatomy and Physiology I Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 2523, Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2521, Anatomy and Physiology II Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAT 1313, College Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPY 2533, Human Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 1113, English Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 1123, English Composition II*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSC 1113, Computer Concepts*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These courses are interchangeable with SPT 1113 (Public Speaking), PSY 1513 (General Psychology) and the Humanities Elective.

**Microbiology/Microbiology Lab must be completed with a "C" or better before NUR 2318.

BSN Transfer Option: The Division of Nursing faculty serve as advisers for the various pathways for students planning to pursue a Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) degree. After successful completion of the core courses and required electives, students will be eligible to receive an Associate of Arts degree from Northwest and can transfer to a four-year university to complete the BSN.

*Note: Every four-year university sets its own requirements for graduation. It is the responsibility of the student to determine which university they would like to attend and what the requirements are.
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NURSING-SPECIFIC COURSES OFFERED:

Nursing (NUR)
NUR 1118    Foundations of Nursing  
NUR 1318    Adult Health I  
NUR 1316    LPN-RN Transition  
NUR 2128    Maternal-Child Nursing  
NUR 2222    Nursing Seminar  
NUR 2318    Adult Health II  
NUR 2323    Nurse Externship (Summer)  
(see page 270 for course descriptions)