The St. David’s School of Nursing, located in Round Rock, educates and prepares graduates, using innovative teaching strategies and state-of-the-art technology, to function in professional nursing roles to manage illness; promote, maintain, and restore health; and provide end of life care for diverse individuals, families, populations, and communities across the lifespan. Graduates demonstrate competence in clinical judgment, collaborate as members of the interprofessional health care team and utilize scientifically-based interventions. These future nurses will provide ethical, safe, and effective patient-centered care and contribute to present and emerging research and health management practices.

The nursing program offers two undergraduate nursing programs. The first is a traditional face-to-face upper division Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.). Graduates of the traditional B.S.N. program are prepared to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®) and to meet the minimum competencies for beginning practice as a R.N.

The B.S.N. curriculum is 120 hours, including 61 hours of Texas State core curricular and prerequisite courses; and 59 hours of nursing courses. The traditional degree program in nursing is a face-to-face five semester program beginning at the junior level. Academic study in nursing is combined with clinical experiences in affiliated clinical settings, as well as hours spent in the simulation laboratories in the School of Nursing building located on the Round Rock campus. The curriculum is designed to accommodate the latest teaching technologies and learning strategies to provide students with the skills, knowledge and abilities needed for professional nursing practice in the 21st Century.

The second undergraduate nursing program is a hybrid B.S.N. completion degree (R.N. to B.S.N.). This program is for students that hold an associate’s nursing degree from an accredited college. The B.S.N. completion curriculum includes 60 hours of nursing courses. The R.N. to B.S.N. program is hybrid with online didactic components, as well as strategically placed face-to-face experiences. The curriculum is designed for flexibility with the option of full or part-time study. Students can finish in as little as two semesters or as many as 6 semesters with extension by permission for the undergraduate program director.

Our graduates are prepared to pursue clinical excellence and certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and to continue formal education for the Master’s Degree and Doctorate in Nursing. Nursing programs offered in the St. David’s School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Academic Progression

The nursing program must be completed in three years from the time of first admission. Students enrolled in the nursing program are required to maintain a grade of at least a “C” (2.0 GPA) in all courses in the nursing curriculum. Courses for the traditional B.S.N. are offered in a face-to-face, lock-step sequence, while the B.S.N. courses are offered on an identified schedule in a hybrid format without a lock-step sequence. Each course is offered only once each academic year; therefore, progress in the program is delayed if the student fails a course. A student may repeat a nursing course only once. Following a second nursing course failure or withdrawing from nursing courses, the student is dismissed from the nursing program, but not from Texas State University.

Graduation

To graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a student must successfully complete all nursing courses with a “C” or better in addition to completing all prerequisite courses. Graduating students must have attained a 2.0 or higher Texas State University GPA with a minimum of a 2.50 GPA in the Nursing major.

Immunizations and Basic Life Support

It is a policy of the College of Health Professions that each student will complete a Health Certificate and Immunization Test Form. These forms must be signed by a physician or licensed healthcare provider. Students must stay current on immunizations. Basic Life Support for Healthcare Professionals is also to be completed and remain current.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen

The traditional B.S.N. student will undergo two background checks. The first criminal background check conducted through the Board of Nursing is required prior to admission to the St. David’s School of Nursing at Texas State. The second background check, conducted by a third party vendor, is required by our clinical partners and a valid social security number must be submitted Both traditional and R.N. to B.S.N. students must complete this background check and drug screen as part of the admission process. All nursing students are subject to random or for cause drug and alcohol screens.

Admissions Requirements

1. The application period begins October 1 and closes January 15.
2. Admission to the undergraduate major in nursing is competitive and selective. Applicants must first be admitted to Texas State University prior to submitting the St. David’s School of Nursing application.
3. Applicants must have a prerequisite GPA of 2.90 or higher and a science GPA of 3.00 or higher. However, a 3.0 prerequisite GPA is recommended to be competitive in the application process.
4. Science courses require a minimum grade of “C” for admission. A maximum of 8 attempts (including W) on the 5 science courses, with no more than 2 attempts on any one science course, is permitted. There can be a maximum of 18 remaining prerequisite credit hours, (including no more than 2 of the 5 science courses) left to complete in the spring and summer semesters before final admission to the St. David’s School of Nursing.
5. An application fee must accompany the St. David’s School of Nursing application.
6. Additional criteria include a personal persuasive essay, scores from the Test of Essential Academic Skills (pre-nursing entrance assessment) and 2 professional or academic references.
7. One hundred (100) highly qualified junior level students are admitted each fall.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

- Major in Nursing (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/health-professions/st-davids-nursing/bsn)
Courses in Nursing (NURS)

NURS 3110. Health Assessment Across the Life Span Practicum.
This course requires demonstrated competency in the performance and documentation of physical assessments of well individuals and nursing care plans using the nursing process, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice. Apply teaching/learning principles in meeting the education needs of patients and demonstrate measures to maintain confidentiality of personal health information. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 3120. Essentials of Nursing Care Practicum.
This course requires the use of nursing process and clinical reasoning principles to provide safe, effective, patient-centered care. Evidence-based practices will be used when performing essential nursing skills and procedures to care for patients experiencing acute and chronic alterations in health status. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 3210. Essentials of Nursing Care.
This foundation course focuses on basic concepts related to essential nursing care of patients across the life span. Integration of knowledge of family systems, evidence-based practice, clinical reasoning, and the nursing process to provide safe, effective, patient-centered care will occur. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Access and barriers to healthcare, past and current healthcare policy, and the professional nurse's role in policy and delivery of healthcare, will be emphasized. Qualitative and quantitative research in relation to healthcare systems, evidence-based practice, and ethical topics will be discussed. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3240. Nursing Care Across the Life Span Practicum.
This course uses clinical experiences to apply the nursing process in providing safe, effective, and quality care to patients and families across the life span. Clinical reasoning and judgment will be used to provide ethical, holistic, and patient-centered nursing care, promote health, prevent disease, and manage illness. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 8 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 3250. Health Assessment Across the Life Span.
Conducting health histories and physical assessments of well individuals and developing nursing care plans that include patient age-specific health promotion, illness prevention, and risk factors will be emphasized. Assessments will encompass cultural domains, diversity, belief systems, and the implications for traditional as well as complementary and alternative healthcare. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3260. Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum.
This course utilizes clinical experiences to promote application of the nursing process in providing quality care to those experiencing mental health issues across the life span. Competency in using evidence-based practices to promote health, prevent disease, and manage illness will be developed. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 8 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 3270. Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice.
This course explores the history of nursing in the context of the evolving healthcare system. Laws, regulations, and ethical guidelines impacting nursing licensure and professional practice will be examined. The delivery of patient and family-centered, evidence-based, and safe quality care will be explored. Restricted to Nursing Majors. (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3280. Research and Ethics.
Introduction to critical appraisal of qualitative and quantitative research, and application of research and evidence-based processes used to improve decision-making and patient care outcomes across health settings. Integration of theory, information systems, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives and analysis of ethical conduct provide a foundation for learning the research process. Restricted to Nursing Majors. (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3290. Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing.
This course applies theories, concepts, knowledge, and skills for the comprehensive nursing care of those coping with mental health issues. Building on a liberal education, this course integrates theories of mental illness, psychopathology, and current research findings as they relate to the presentation of symptoms and holistic management of care. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
NURS 3430. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Nurses.
Introduction and overview of pathology, clinical pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics, including how major drugs are used therapeutically for age-specific clients. Other topics to be covered include drug laws and regulations, patient and nurse safety. Prerequisite to NURS 3440 and NURS 3460. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3440. Nursing Care Across the Life Span.
This foundational course focuses on the use of clinical reasoning and judgment to provide collaborative care to patients across the life span experiencing chronic and acute alterations in health status. Content is presented based on evidence-based practice and the prevalent health needs of patients. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 3441. Acute Nursing Care of Adults.
This course focuses on the use of evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning and judgment to provide collaborative care to adult patients experiencing acute, rapidly changing, life-threatening alterations in health status. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4160. Maternal and Newborn Nursing Practicum.
This course is the clinical companion to NURS 4260. Concepts, knowledge, and skills taught in NURS 4160 will be applied to both simulation lab and clinical settings. Evidence-based, developmentally and culturally appropriate nursing care in a variety of patient-care settings will be emphasized.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 4170. Pediatric Nursing Practicum.
This course is the clinical companion to NURS 4270. Concepts, knowledge, and skills taught in NURS 4270 will be applied in the simulation lab and clinical settings. Evidence-based, developmentally and culturally appropriate nursing care in a variety of patient-care settings will be emphasized.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 4201. Professional Growth and Empowerment.
This course focuses on issues related to professional practice, career planning, personal goal setting, and empowerment of self and others. Factors related to job performance, performance expectations and evaluation, reality orientation, and commitment to lifelong learning will be discussed. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4204. Policy, Ethics, and Advocacy in Professional Nursing Practice.
This course explores the baccalaureate prepared nurse’s role informing the public policy process. Nursing jurisprudence, principles of nursing ethics, patient safety advocacy, standards and scope of nursing practice, professional boundaries, nursing peer review, and whistleblower protections are emphasized to prepare students to influence the U.S. Health Care System and society.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4205. Healthcare Information Technology in Nursing Practice.
This course emphasizes nursing informatics and technology used in healthcare settings to research, support and implement safe quality patient care. Nursing administrative applications, pre-care and care support, electronic health records, clinical information systems, telehealth, informatics promoting community and consumer health, HIPAA, and technology to enhance collaboration in healthcare are covered.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4211. Nursing Care in Complex Health Practicum.
This course focuses on providing care to patients with complex health alterations and life situations. Nursing care to patients in a variety of settings will be provided using the concepts of therapeutic communication and collaborative interventions with a focus on the complexity of the patient’s or family’s needs. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 8 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 4260. Maternal and Newborn Nursing.
This course applies the nursing process and evidence-based practice to the care of maternal and newborn patients in a variety of healthcare settings. The course emphasizes the use of the nursing process to provide care to individuals and families that is developmentally and culturally focused.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4270. Pediatric Nursing.
This course applies the nursing process and evidence-based practice to the care of pediatric patients in acute, outpatient and non-acute care settings. The course emphasizes the use of the nursing process to provide care to individuals and families that is developmentally and culturally appropriate.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4280. Community-Based Nursing Practicum.
Health assessment and planning will be conducted for diverse community groups including education, support groups/ resources, advocacy, response to situational crises, bio-terrorism and environmental emergencies, group dynamics, and impact on communities. Clinical experiences will occur in community or public health settings. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
2 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 8 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
NURS 4302. Role Transition to Professional Nursing.
This didactic course focuses on role responsibility and accountability for transition into baccalaureate nursing practice. Emphasis is given to core professional standards and ethical values fundamental to nursing. Principles of professional communication, critical thinking, and role socialization will be integrated within an organizational context for professional growth. (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4303. Safety and Quality in an Interprofessional Environment.
This course emphasizes the professional nurses' role in application of evidence based quality improvement and risk reduction strategies that promote safe environments while maximizing resources and opportunities for positive patient outcomes. Participation in highly effective Interprofessional teams is emphasized with concepts applied to local, national and international health issues.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4311. Nursing Care in Complex Health.
This course explores traditional and contemporary nursing concepts related to complex health alterations, compensations, and environments across the life span. Therapeutic communication, education, and collaborative interventions with diverse individuals and groups are emphasized including the use of complementary and alternative modalities to meet the needs of patients. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4341. Leadership and Management of Nursing Care Practicum.
Leadership and management skills in a variety of nursing care situations will be applied. Nursing unit leadership and staff assignments based on assessment of client needs, resources, priorities, and competencies of staff will be covered. Assessment and evaluation of the provision of evidence-based nursing care will be performed. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 12 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 4351. Leadership and Management of Nursing Care.
Students discuss leadership and management theories related to organizational nursing roles, including competencies required for complex change, performance improvement, and transformational leadership. Organizational contexts - structure, processes, and culture - in leading and directing patient centered care are examined, along with relationships between governance structures, practice environments, and positive patient outcomes. Restricted to Nursing Majors. (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 4380. Community-Based Nursing.
Using a variety of philosophical perspectives, community-based nursing care, learning to contrast care in hospital-based settings while transitioning into organizations within the community will be explored. Reflective assessment skills and mindful intervention/teaching projects will be developed. Restricted to Nursing Majors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter