



West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Department of Nursing

**Advance-2-BSN
Accelerated Second-Degree
Program Information
& Application Guide**

**Cohort 15:
May 2019 - December 2020
Applications Accepted: June 1 - Aug 31, 2018**

Guide Version: January 2018

Welcome to West Chester University Advance 2 BSN Program

Thank you for your interest in the Advance 2 BSN Accelerated Second Degree Program at West Chester University. This 18-month program is for those who already have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline and want to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in order to be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN nursing licensure examination.

This document covers the requirements and procedures for applying to Cohort 15 that runs from May 2019 to December 2020. This guide also includes a FAQ on the program, eligibility, financial aid, and curriculum progression. At the end of this document are several important checklists and forms.

Please use the eligibility checklist on Page 20 before submitting your application to see if you are qualified for this program (it is not submitted with the application).

The Transcript Self-Review form and the Science Composite GPA form on the last pages will help you determine if you have the prerequisite courses and GPA requirements. The Transcript Self-Review is submitted to Dr. Meehan.

Interest in our program is very high. We expect about 120 applications for this cohort. We only have space for no more than 40 students so competition is quite high. Due to this high number of applicants we have set up a process to accept only the most qualified prospective students.

Cohort 15 Timeline:

June 1 – August 31, 2018:	Send Transcript Self-Review to Dr. Meehan. Send official transcripts & TEAS scores to WCU Admissions.
August 15 – 31, 2018:	Apply online to WCU Admissions.
September 2018:	On-campus group interviews.
October 2018:	E-mail notifications of admission sent.
January 2019:	NSG 310 for Spring 2019 semester may be taken.
February 2019:	Student Agreement forms sent
May 2019:	Orientation, First day of classes (Summer Session of 2018)
December 2020:	Graduation

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Advance2WCU.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Program FAQs

How many cohorts are admitted each year?

- One cohort of 40 students is admitted per year. Beginning June 1 and ending August 31 we accept applications and conduct interviews. The program begins in the first summer session of each year (usually the last week of May). Admitted students can get a head start by taking NSG 310 Human Response to Disease in the spring semester (which begins in January).

Where are you located?

- The Nursing department moved temporarily to the Whiteland Technology Center in Exton, PA in August 2015. A new building is being constructed on the WCU Main Campus. Cohort 15 will start at the Exton campus but may be moved to the new nursing building during 2020.
- All faculty offices and all non-elective Advance 2 BSN nursing classes are held in Suite 100 at 930 East Lincoln Highway, Exton PA. Some elective courses may be taught on the main campus in West Chester. See <http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/healthsciences/nursing/map.asp> for directions

What is your attrition rate?

- Our attrition rate since the program began, that is students who leave without finishing, has been less than 1%.

What is your acceptance rate?

- For the last cohort over 120 complete applications were submitted. The top 70 applicants were offered an interview. Forty applicants were admitted from the interviewed candidates.

Can I make an appointment to meet someone?

- Due to the high volume of applicants Dr. Meehan is not available for pre-admission meetings. If you still have questions after reading this guide, please submit questions via e-mail for fastest response.
- Our program does not require or provide pre-application interviews.

Can I come and tour your facility?

- Everyone is welcome to come and tour our facility before applying. Please call the Department at 610-436-2219 and ask when it would be OK to tour.

Are classes online?

- All classes are held in-person at the campuses in Exton, or West Chester Main or South campuses. Some nursing elective courses are held at the West Chester campus. Most classes will be held in Exton. There are online components to all courses in the program for access to documents and quizzes, but no core nursing courses are offered online-only.

I have a full-time job. Can I continue to work full-time during the program?

- This is a rigorous full-time program. Experience has shown that successful students do not work more than 20 hours per week during the semesters. This is an individual decision, and as such each student should carefully consider this recommendation prior to applying to the program. Classes are held weekdays during day, afternoons, and evenings. Clinical experiences are on Saturday and Sundays, sometimes one or both days for a total of 11-12 hours per weekend. Plan on at least 50 hours per week of class time, clinical time, preparation, and completion of assignments.
- Summer classes run in only 9 weeks. Fall and spring semesters classes are held over 14 weeks. This means even more time in summers will be spent in the classroom and in preparation.

How do I get more information?

- The most up to date information is on our web page (shortcut: <http://Advance2WCU.org>). If you still have a specific question that cannot be answered from our online resources please send an e-mail to the A2B coordinator, Dr. Carolyn Meehan at cmeehan@wcupa.edu.
- More information about BSN programs in general please contact the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), or the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <http://www.rwjf.org/humancapital/index.jsp>.
- This Guide is periodically updated. Be sure you are using the latest Guide before submitting your application.

Admission Prerequisites FAQs

What are the average scores of previously admitted students?

- Averages in the last admitted cohort were Overall GPA 3.28, Science GPA 3.57, and TEAS of 85.

What are the requirements before admission?

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university. We will consider applicants who will graduate in May of 2018.
- All prerequisites must be completed by May 20, 2019. See the list of prerequisite courses later in this document.
- See the Eligibility checklist on page 20 in this document to review your qualifications to apply.

My undergraduate GPA is not at least a 2.75. Can I apply?

- You can apply but the odds of acceptance are small. Send a transcript self-review to Dr. Meehan after applying online if you feel your application deserves a waiver from our minimum GPA requirement.

I will not graduate until May 2019. Can I apply?

- Yes, you can apply. We give priority to applicants who have completed their degree. We will consider graduating applicants if most of their science prerequisites are complete, and are of high academic accomplishment. All prerequisites must be done before May 20, 2018.

Must all prerequisites be completed before applying?

- No. Prerequisites only need to be completed before beginning the program. However, it is important that most prerequisites be completed at the time of application. We prefer to see completion of Chemistry, one Anatomy and Physiology, and Microbiology before submitting your application. You can apply with fewer prerequisites completed but chances of admission are smaller.
- Complete the *Eligibility Checklist* and the *Transcript Self-Review* later in this document to see if you are eligible to apply. Only applications that meet all the criteria will be considered for acceptance for admission. Completion of all areas does not mean you will be accepted, only that you will be considered for acceptance.

Do I need to have a certain overall/cumulative GPA to qualify for admission?

- This program requires a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 from a student's previous bachelor's degree AND a Science Composite GPA of at least 2.75 in the following courses: BIO 100, BIO 259, BIO 269 and CHE/CRL 107 (or equivalents) (See Composite GPA Worksheet to calculate).
 - All prerequisite grades must be at least a C to transfer.

Where can I take my prerequisite classes? Or I want to take course "X" at school "Y". Will it transfer?

- We do not require that you take classes at any specific institution, but ask that you look at the course requirements as your guide. Most community colleges and four-year colleges offer the prerequisite courses that accept. Course titles and credit load need to be similar. We also accept courses taught through Portage Learning.

My Science Composite GPA is not at least a 2.75. What can I do to apply?

- You should not apply now but you are permitted to repeat the science courses to improve your GPA to at least a 2.75. WCU policies regarding repeating courses apply (See WCU Undergraduate Catalog).

How will I know if my courses will be accepted?

- Use the Transcript Self-Review form at the end of this document.
- Most Introductory courses from accredited 2-year and 4-year programs will transfer (if they meet minimum grade and credit-hour requirements).
- Final course equivalency will be determined by the Department of Nursing at the time of application. We will not officially pre-approve courses via phone or email.
- Generally, if your course was taught at an accredited university or college, has the same or more credit load, and has a title very similar to the WCU equivalent course it will transfer.

I never took a BIO100 course, do I need to go back and take that?

- Yes, Introduction to Biology (BIO 100 or its equivalent) is required. You may take either an introductory biology course or a CLEP exam in Introductory Biology to get credit.

What are the age limits on prerequisite courses on course I have already taken?

- Prerequisites more than 10 years old will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- Science courses Intro to Biology, Microbiology, and Introduction to Chemistry must be completed no more than 5 years from the start of the program.
- Anatomy and Physiology must be completed less than 3 years from the start of the cohort. This means that the second A&P course for Cohort 15 cannot be older than the spring of 2015. We require this due to our finding that newer A&P credit correlates with success in NSG 310 (Human Responses to Disease).

I took Anatomy and Physiology as separate courses. Will they transfer?

- As long as they add up to 8 credits with a lab from an accredited college they will most likely transfer. [Penn State students should take BIOL 141/142 Human Physiology (3/1 cr) and BIOL 129 Anatomy (4 cr).]
- When A&P is taught as courses in two parts BOTH parts must be taken at the same school.

I am having difficulty finding a chemistry course that is equivalent to CHE/CRL107. What should I do?

- CHE/CRL 107 at WCU is 5 credits. We will accept a 4-credit introductory chemistry course from another university if it included a laboratory component described on the transcript.
- A strong biochemistry component is preferred when choosing a chemistry course.

Do nursing courses from other universities transfer?

- No, nursing courses do not transfer.

I would like to test out of some courses. Can I CLEP any pre-requisites?

- Yes, if you feel you have the background, but not the college course credit, for Basic Biology, Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology, and/or Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan you can take the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam.
- You must score at least a 50.
- For further information, see <http://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/testCredit.aspx>

My science course did not have a lab. Will you accept it?

- Yes, but you will still need the lab. Chemistry including a lab must total 4 credits. Anatomy and Physiology must total 8 credits including a lab. Microbiology must total 4 credits including a lab.

Do you still have rolling admissions?

- No. Starting with this cohort we will accept all applications during the window of June 1 to August 31. Only the most qualified applicants will then be invited for an interview.

I have a misdemeanor/felony in my background. Will that be a problem?

- All students must submit to criminal background and drug screening checks before attending off-campus clinical courses. Many clinical agencies we use will not allow students with certain criminal backgrounds into their agency. In such situations you could no longer remain a student. Additionally, some crimes may prohibit you from getting a nursing license. See the BSN Student Handbook for more details.

My degree is from outside the USA. How to I apply?

- The process is the same for USA graduates but you will need to have your transcripts reviewed first at your expense.
- Go to http://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_adm/international.aspx and follow the directions for International Admission>Transfer Applicants.
- Native English speaker or scores at least a 80 on TOEFL exam or as specified on the International Student Admissions page at http://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_adm/internationaladmissions.asp
If your bachelor's degree is from a non-USA university you will need to pay for a transcript review as described on the International Student Admissions page.

What is the TEAS exam?

- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) is a multiple-choice assessment of basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, English and language usage. The time limit is 209 minutes. The computerized exam contains 170 four-option multiple-choice questions and must be taken in a proctored environment. Calculators may NOT be used for the test. Test results are available 48 hours after completion of the test.
- See <http://www.atitesting.com/Solutions/PreNursingSchool/TEAS.aspx> for test information. Look at the bottom of the page for the Register for the TEAS button. Select TEAS for Nursing and select a testing site. WCU does NOT offer the exam on our campus.
- The minimum score for application eligibility is 70. However, the average accepted student has had Total Score averaging 85 in recent cohorts.
- Only TEAS scores completed after August 31, 2016 will be accepted.
- Request that ATI send your score to the West Chester University Admissions Department. This will usually be an extra charge unless you take the exam at a PSI Testing Center.
- DO NOT submit scores to the Nursing Department. Scores go to WCU Admissions.
- Applications will not reach the interview stage without submitted TEAS score. You may begin the application process before the TEAS is completed but your application will not be processed until the score is submitted.
- We DO NOT substitute, require, or accept SAT, ACT, or GRE scores in lieu the TEAS.
- You should repeat the exam if you score less than 70. We only consider your latest score.

Where can I take the TEAS exam?

- The TEAS is NOT administered at WCU.
- Many community colleges offer the exam. You can also to ATITesting.com and to one of their regional testing centers. Some local locations offering the TEAS include Roxborough Memorial Hospital, Penn State Berks and Lehigh campuses, Delaware County Community College, and Berks County Community College.
- If you cannot find a local college then register for the test at a PSI Testing Center through the ATI web site.

Application FAQs

How do I submit my application?

- Applying the program is in two parts: Transcript Self-Review, and WCU Online Admission Application.
- Transcript Self-Review Forms will be accepted from June 1 to August 31, 2018.
- Between June 1 and August 31, 2018 mail the Transcript Self-Review to:
 - Carolyn Meehan PhD RN
 - ATTN: Cohort 15
 - 930 East Lincoln Highway: Suite 100
 - Exton PA 19341-2848
- After August 15, 2018 you can apply online to WCU. Follow the procedure outlined later in this guide.
- You can begin sending your higher education transcripts and TEAS scores to Admissions on June 1. All must be received by August 31.

What do I submit with my Transcript Self-Review?

- Mail only the completed form to Dr. Meehan.
- If you have prerequisites you still plan to take please indicate on the form where and when you will take each course.

What do I submit with my WCU Online application?

- Send ALL transcripts from your higher education experiences at 2-year or 4-year colleges to Admissions.
- Submit the TEAS score to Admissions.

I went to West Chester University; do I still need to send transcripts to Admissions?

- No. Current or previous WCU students do not need to send WCU transcripts. We have access to them already.
- You will still need to submit transcripts of any higher education courses you completed at any other 2 or 4 year institution.

Do you need recommendation letters, SAT scores, or high school records?

- DO NOT send high school transcripts, GRE, SAT, or ACT scores. These are not used in admission decisions.
- DO NOT send letters of recommendation or references. These are not used in admission decisions.

How do I improve my chances of admission?

- Have most prerequisites completed, particularly the science courses. It is OK to apply if you still have one science course to complete in the spring.
- Have good grades in your first degree and prerequisites courses. If you have poor prerequisite grades you should retake the courses before applying.
- Write a good essay on the online application explaining why you want to be a nurse.
- Get experience with nurses and understand what nursing is. Volunteer at a hospital or get a caregiving job. Learn about what is meant by the science of nursing.

Post-Application/Interview FAQs

Will I be interviewed?

- Only applicants who have submitted all transcripts, TEAS score, and a Transcript Self-Review before August 31, 2018 will be considered for interviews.
- If you are invited to a group interview you will be sent a link to schedule it. Interviews will be held on various weekdays in September. Group interviews will have up to 5 candidates at a time.
- Applications with missing self-reviews, transcripts, TEAS scores, or are below minimum GPA requirements will not be invited to the interview stage.

What happens at the interview?

- You will be able to tour the facility and see our simulation labs and classrooms.
- During the group interview we will ask you why you choosing nursing as a career and why you want to come to WCU.
- You will write short essays to questions about nursing and your interest in nursing.
- You will have time to ask questions you may have about the program.
- Dr. Meehan may ask questions about your progress in completing prerequisites, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions privately.

When will admission decisions be made?

- After interviews begin we will begin to offer admission to outstanding applicants soon after interviews begin. All applicants who are selected for admission will be notified via e-mail no later than October 31.

What happens after I am admitted?

- Admitted students will later receive a formal letter from Admissions in November 2018 and will be required to submit a deposit within 30 days of receiving the letter to hold their spot.
- Admitted students will be offered an opportunity to take NSG 310 Human Responses to Disease in the 2019 spring semester. This class is limited to 20 students.
- Early in 2019 you will receive a letter explaining the next steps in enrolling, and a Student Agreement form that affirms your acceptance of admission and agreement to follow the required curriculum.
- In mid-May of 2019 you will have an all-day Orientation to the program before classes begin.

If I am not admitted after the interview is there any chance of being admitted later?

- Yes. Sometimes admitted students choose to not attend WCU after accepting admission. In those cases we will contact prior applicants who meet our admission criteria and offer admission if you are still interested.

Financial Aid & Cost FAQs

What does the Advance 2 BSN Program cost?

- The fees and tuition are same as all other bachelor degrees at WCU. See the Bursar's page at: <http://www.wcupa.edu/information/afa/fiscal/bursar/tuition.asp>
- In-state tuition and fees for the five semester of the program are currently around \$24,000. Out-of-state tuition and fees will be around \$48,000. Tuition and fee increases have been common annually, so prepare for increases.
- Housing and meal costs are additional. On-campus housing is generally not available for students in this program.
- During the first weeks of the program you will spend at least \$4000 on books, equipment, uniforms, and the ATI study program. The ATI program provides study guides, online testing for practice, NCLEX-RN licensure exam practice and an in-person NCLEX-RN prep class. You will need to spend around \$2000 the first summer session on these items.
- A smartphone or handheld computer is recommended for electronic reference titles and healthcare applications.
- A laptop with Windows 10 or Mac OS is required [it does not need to be very powerful]. An inexpensive monochrome laser printer is also very helpful and is recommended.

Do I pay upfront for the entire program, or billed each semester?

- Each semester is billed separately and is due at the start of each semester.
- Be aware that some student loans only pay for students beginning in the fall semester. Our program starts in May so you may be responsible to find another funding source for the first semester.

Would I be considered a full-time student?

- Yes, students are considered full-time in the program. During the summer session you only need 6 credits to be considered full time.

Do I pay in-state or out-of-state tuition?

- Generally, you need to be living in Pennsylvania for 12 consecutive months **prior to admission** (October 2018) to be considered an in-state student. See residency details at the Registrars page: http://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/res_reg.asp

Is there financial aid/scholarships available?

- WCU does not offer scholarships in the form of discounted tuition. There are outside scholarships that may reduce your costs. Go to the Financial Aid department on Main Campus to search for available money.
- Aid is often dependent on things such as your previous student loan amounts and other parameters, so it may not be available. Also, check with a tax advisor on the deductibility of your education expenses.
- Students may arrange for payment plans with the Financial Aid office.
- The Nursing Department does not provide financial aid counseling or scholarship information.
- Go to the Bursar's web page for links to financial aid options: <http://www.wcupa.edu/information/afa/fiscal/bursar/default.asp>

Curriculum Progression FAQs

Is the Advance 2 BSN program the same as the traditional undergraduate program?

- The courses are the same but taught only with other Advance 2 BSN students. The core courses also run through the summers in an accelerated format, unlike the traditional program.

What classes are required?

- 1 Human Response to Disease course (NSG 310)
- 12 Core Nursing courses:
NSG 212, NSL 212, NSG 367, NSG 311, NSL 311, NSG 312, NSL 312, NSG 313, NSG 411, NSL 411, NSG 412, NSL 412 (see course description section for more detail)
- Nursing elective(s) (for a total of 3 credits)

When and where are classes held?

- All core nursing courses are held at the Exton campus.
- Classroom courses NSG 311, NSG 312, and NSG 411 are held weekdays on campus during the fall and spring semesters. They are 2 or 4 hour blocks on weekdays.
- Classroom courses NSG212 and NSG412 are held weekdays during the day in the summer for 9 weeks. NSL 212 and 412 clinical courses are also held during weekdays during the summer. Classes run from Monday to Thursday. There is no classes or clinicals during the week of Independence Day.
- Clinical courses NSL 311, NSL 312, NSL 411, and NSL 412 are held in area hospitals, clinics, and community health settings.
- Clinical courses NSL 212 and NSL 412 are held in summer two days a week on weekdays. NSL 311, 312, and 411 are held on the weekends during the fall and spring semesters, averaging 11 hours per week.
- Some rotations may differ slightly with longer clinical hours on some days and other days off. Shifts vary between days, evenings, and nights. You must keep your calendar open from Friday evening to Sunday evening in the fall and spring semesters.
- Classroom classes NSG367 Pharmacology (3 credits) and NSG313 Nursing Research (3 credits) are at the Exton or Main West Chester campus and are scheduled as daytime classes weekdays in the first fall and spring semesters.
- NSG 310 Human Responses to Disease is held in the spring and summer during the afternoon. NSG 310 may be taken before beginning the first summer courses of NSG/NSL 212.

How long is a semester?

- Fall and Spring semesters are 15 weeks in length (14 weeks of classes plus one week of final exams).
- Summer semesters include SS1 and SS2 as one 9-week semester for the NSG courses. There is a one-week break at July 4th. Non-nursing courses run 5-weeks in SS1 or SS2.
- Summer post-session (or sometimes called Summer III) and Winter Session (the first weeks of January) are 2-3 weeks in length, and may be shorter for some courses. We do not teach any core courses during these semesters, but you may use these sessions for nursing elective courses that may be available.
- We follow the University Academic Calendar for classes, holidays, and breaks. We also follow University closings for weather or other emergencies. For the latest 2-year calendar to WCU.edu and search for Academic Calendar.

Are there any courses I need to take before starting?

- NSG 310 is encouraged to be taken in the Spring semester before starting the program. Accepted Cohort 15 students can enroll in late November 2018 for NSG 310 that runs from January to May 2019.
- Any remaining prerequisite courses must be completed by May 20, 2019. Admitted students will not be permitted to enter the program if there any unfulfilled prerequisites.

What elective courses are offered?

- You need a minimum of three (3) credits of nursing electives in addition to the required nursing courses.
- Electives are offered in fall, spring, and interim semesters (Interim are the times between Fall and Spring, and between Spring and Summer semesters)
- The possible elective courses are listed in this Guide, however only a few of these courses are available from semester to semester.
- WCU has increasingly been offering international travel courses for the Interim periods. These have costs for both tuition and travel.
- You are permitted to take more than 3 credits of elective but you may not be in an overload for that semester.

What is a passing grade?

- For all NSG/NSL courses except the 6 credits of Nursing Electives, the grade is a C (minimum of 73%). You will take the NSG and NSL portions of the courses together (i.e. NSG311 and NSL311) so you must pass BOTH courses with a minimum of 73% in order to progress.
- For Nursing Electives the minimum grade is a C-.

What happens if I do not pass a course?

- If you do not achieve the minimum grade as outlined above you will not be permitted to progress in the program. Due to space limitations you will also need to apply for readmission to the program.

What else will I need to be a student in this program?

- Aside from dedication, intelligence, caring, and a desire to help people it will help to have a laptop, and a handheld computer or smartphone. A car is necessary to go to class and clinical.

Is anything in this document subject to change?

- Yes. Policies change regularly so be sure to download the latest A2B Information Guide and Undergraduate Student Handbook, and check the WCU Undergraduate Handbook.

Please Note: This document is informational and is accurate as of January 2018. The information and policies described here are subject to change and should not be considered contractual in any way. See the most current Department and University handbooks and catalogs for official information and policies.

West Chester University of PA
Department of Nursing

Advance 2 BSN Curriculum Sequence of Courses

Begins May 2019 (Cohort 15)

Course	Credits	1st Summer 2019	1ST Fall 2019	Spring 2020	2nd Summer 2020	2ND Fall 2020
NSG 212 NSL 212 Nursing Fundamentals	3 3	X				
NSG 310 ¹ Human Response to Disease	3	X				
NSG 311 NSL 311 Community & Maternity Nursing	4 5		X			
NSG 367 Pharmacology	3		X			
NSG 312 NSL 312 Pediatric & Geriatric Nursing	5 5			X		
Nursing Elective ²	At least 4			X		X
NSG 313 Nursing Research	3			X		
NSG 412 NSL 412 Medical/Surgical & Public Health	5 5				X	
NSG 411 NSL 411 Medical/Surgical & Psychiatric Nursing	5 5					X

¹ = NSG 310 may be taken in the Spring semester prior to 1st Summer

² = Nursing Elective must total a minimum of 4 credits. May be taken any semester or interim semester that is not an overload.

Classroom courses are usually taught in Exton weekdays in the afternoons and early evening but is subject to change.

Summer classes and clinicals are held Monday-Thursday during the day.

Fall & Spring classes are held Monday-Friday. Fall & Spring clinical courses are held at off-campus at clinical agencies on Saturday or Sunday for a 11-12 hour shift, or on both Saturday and Sunday for a 5.5 to 6 hour shift on both days.

Advance-2-BSN Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Although the nursing course descriptions have been separated between theory (NSG) and clinical (NSL) components for clarity, students must take the theory and clinical components concurrently. Failure in a NSG course requires repeating of its related NSL course regardless of grade.

NSG 212 -- NURSING THEORIES AND CONCEPTS [3 credit hours]

In this course the student will examine various nursing theories and concepts; conceptual frameworks; theories from other disciplines which apply to nursing; nursing history; nursing education; professionalism in nursing; the nursing process; leadership; ethical, legal, and political and economic aspects of nursing; introduction to research process; and current issues in nursing. This course serves as a foundation for subsequent nursing courses in the upper division.

NSL 212 -- NURSING THEORIES AND CONCEPTS LAB [3 credit hours]

(Must be taken with NSG 212). This clinical experience includes interviewing skills, physical and psychosocial assessment, vital signs measurement, basic hygienic practices, body mechanics, and infection control. Students are required to take a Nursing Lab Practical Exam at the end of this course.

NSG 310 - - HUMAN RESPONSE TO DISEASE [3 credit hours]

Examination of core concepts of alterations of human responses to disease processes at the cellular and systemic level. This course focuses on illness as it affects major body systems. Students will identify and analyze prototypical clinical situations, which will provide a foundation for their nursing practice. This course will link clinical situations to their underlying mechanism of disorder and provide a sound knowledge for the practice of professional nursing. **For Advance 2 BSN students ONLY.**

NSG 311 – CARE OF THE CHILDBEARING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY-BASED NURSING [4 credit hours]

This course emphasizes the childbearing family and individuals in various community settings. Content will focus on prevention of illness and promotion of health by assessment of the health status, appropriate intervention, and evaluation of the health promotion plan. Chronic states as well as acute health conditions also will be addressed. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity, and acuity. The nursing process provides the framework for the care to be given in a variety of settings with clients. PREREQ: BIO 310. COREQ: NSL 311.

NSL 311 – COMMUNITY & MATERNITY-NURSING LABORATORY [5 credit hours]

Clinical experiences are provided in agencies where relatively well populations have been identified, such as schools, day care centers, pediatrician's office, health maintenance clinics, childbirth settings, senior citizen's programs, and retirement communities. NSG 311 and NSL 311 must be taken concurrently.

NSG 312 – CARE OF THE OLDER ADULT AND CHILD [5 credit hours]

This course emphasizes the assessment, maintenance, and promotion of health for the older adult and child. Clients with chronic health problems in both of these populations are addressed. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity, and acuity. The nursing process is used to assist these clients to grow and/or adapt through supportive, therapeutic, palliative, and preventive measures. PREREQ: NSG 212 and NSL 212. COREQ: NSL 312.

NSL 312 – GERIATRIC & PEDIATRIC NURSING LABORATORY [5 credit hours]

Clinical experience is provided in rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and acute care settings. These environments provide flexibility for students to implement changes for clients and acquire skills that will be used in other nursing courses. NSG 312 and NSL 312 must be taken concurrently.

NSG 313 – APPLIED NURSING RESEARCH [3 credit hours]

This course is designed to assist students in understanding, interpreting and applying the research process to a variety of nursing clinical situations. Opportunities will be provided to develop a literature review and to critique nursing research studies.

NSG 367 --NURSING IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG INTERACTIONS [3 credit hours]

In this course the student will be introduced to essential pharmacological principles and concepts. The nursing process will provide the framework by which students will apply these principles and concepts to situations in a variety of health care settings.

NSG 411 – CARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN ACUTE CARE & BEHAVIORAL SETTINGS [5 credit hours]

This course emphasizes the care of people with acute medical, surgical, and behavioral health crises. Concepts of holistic care are highlighted throughout classroom and clinical experiences. The content will focus on using the nursing process to assist clients in crisis. The framework for caregiving will reflect the concepts that include an application of research, theory, ethical, legal, and educational principles to assist clients in crisis.

NSL 411 – ACUTE CARE 1 & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LABORATORY [5 credit hours]

Clinical experience is provided in acute care in psychiatric in-patient, and community health settings. NSG 411 and NSL 411 must be taken concurrently.

NSG 412 – CARE OF COMMUNITIES & INDIVIDUALS IN ACUTE CARE FROM A SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE [5 credit hours]

Emphasis on the subconcepts of decision-making and advocacy. The nursing process is utilized interdependently in approaching multi-healthcare problems of clients. Special attention is given to inquiry as the student correlates nursing theories and concepts with identifiable research problems in varied environments. Opportunity is provided to develop organization and management skills.

NSL 412 – ACUTE CARE II & COMMUNITY LABORATORY [5 credit hours]

Clinical experience is provided in acute care, in psychiatric in-patient settings, and in community health settings. The emphasis during each clinical experience in NSL 412 is on decision-making, advocacy, and the further development of the student's organizational and management skills. NSG 412 and NSL 412 must be taken concurrently.

Nursing Elective Courses

This is a list of approved nursing elective courses. Students must earn 3 credits of nursing elective. Only a few of these courses will be offered each semester. Check the course catalog online each semester for availability and prerequisites. Other electives courses may be available during your program.

NSG 109 -- HEALTH ISSUES OF WOMEN [3 credit hours]

This course encompasses the needs and concerns of women as consumers in our present health care system. Students will examine various biological, psychological, and social topics related to women's health care. This course is offered in the Women's Studies Program, and is open to all students. This course also is a diversity course.

NSG 218 -- CONCEPTS IN CARING [3 credit hours]

The emphasis of this course is that caring is a universal concept that can be viewed from various perspectives. Views from the disciplines of nursing, art, literature, and psychology are explored in a quest to develop more fully for each student a personal concept of caring. Nurses, professional experts in the caring business, serves as the guides in a creative journey connecting human caring and the various disciplines. Creativity will be encouraged in this course.

NSG 221 - - SKILLS FOR PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS [1 credit hour]

This one credit course for level III and IV nursing majors is designed to help students foster clinical judgment skills by focusing on study skills, critical thinking and test-taking. Emphasis is placed on preparing students with skills that are essential for success on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). May be required for some students as per the Academic Support Policy.

NSG 222 - - ISSUES IN TRANSCULTURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY [3 credit hours]

This is a systems approach to health care delivery. The course surveys health needs of diverse U.S. populations using a multidisciplinary approach. The course will introduce the origin and evolution of socio-cultural health beliefs as they impact health behaviors and health outcomes of culturally and ethnically diverse individuals and populations in the United States. All concepts in this course will be approached from the perspectives of business/economics, health, and political science. The goal of the course is to promote collaboration among disciplines, improve student communication skills to facilitate their ability to advocate for diverse populations, and improve health care services for diverse populations. This course is an interdisciplinary course.

NSG 318 – SELECTED TOPICS IN NURSING, 1 to 6 credit hours.

An in-depth study of selected, current topics relevant to nursing and health care. This course will emphasize the critical analysis of current topics on health care. Each student will develop a commitment to reading and critiquing nursing literature in professional journals as part of the teaching-learning process.

NSG 320 - - CARE OF THE INNER SELF [3 credit hours]

This course focuses on care of the inner self or spirit. The purpose of the course is to prepare one to understand the inner self and to know how to utilize the power within the self to maintain wellness and prevent illness.

NSG 352 -- INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY VALUES [1 credit hour]

This course will provide an in-depth study of frequently encountered laboratory findings with an emphasis on the critical analysis of these laboratory results and appropriate follow-up. The course will help students to identify and prioritize nursing interventions for the client undergoing laboratory testing to assure quality specimen collection

NSG 353 -- SUGGESTIVE THERAPEUTICS FOR THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL [3 credit hours]

This course will provide a practical framework for the healthcare professional to structure suggestions and pattern communication with patients. The most recent innovations and research in the field will be presented and a variety of approaches will be synthesized into a comprehensive approach to the practice of suggestive therapeutics.

NSG 380 -- CLINICAL SIMULATION I NURSING [3 credit hours]

Students will role-play a variety of roles during patient care scenarios using SIM-MAN technology. During scenarios students will assess patient condition, critically think through patient care problems, implement nursing interventions, and evaluate patient outcomes. Students will evaluate performance of self and peers during debriefing sessions for continued improvement in problem solving and patient outcomes.

NSG 420 – PHYSICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT [3 credit hours]

This course combines comprehensive theoretical and laboratory experience to enable the nursing student to perform a complete holistic health assessment and physical examination of the adult, adolescent, and pediatric client. Opportunity is provided to enhance the participant's ability to collect relevant data via use of appropriate interviewing methods, developmental and physical assessment techniques. Emphasis is placed on effective communication techniques and essential assessment skills.

NSG 480 – ADVANCED CLINICAL SIMULATION IN NURSING [3 credit hours]

In this course students will role-play a variety of roles during advanced patient care scenarios using SIM-MAN technology. During scenarios students will assess patient condition, critically think through patient care problems, implement nursing interventions, and evaluate patient outcomes in crisis situations. Students will evaluate performance of self and peers during debriefing sessions for continued improvement in problem solving complex patient care situations and evaluate outcomes.

Prerequisite: NSG/NSL 311 & 312 (with at least a 73%)

Cohort 15 Application Procedure

1. **Complete the self-checklist on page 20 of application eligibility.**
 - a. This checklist is only for your use; it is not submitted to WCU.
 - b. You may apply even if you have not completed all prerequisites. However, applicants with more prerequisites completed will have a greater chance of acceptance.
 - c. The Science-Composite courses of Introduction to Biology, Anatomy & Physiology I, and Chemistry should be completed by December 2018. Preference is given to applicants with more science prerequisites completed.
 - d. All prerequisites must be completed before May 20, 2019 to start the program.
2. **Take the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam.**
 - a. See Page 7 of this Guide for more information.
 - b. You must achieve at least a 70 to be eligible to apply.
 - c. Only TEAS scores completed after August 31, 2016 will be accepted.
 - d. Request ATI send your score to the West Chester University Admissions Department. The cost of the exam includes one transcript to be sent to the school of your choice.
Do not send TEAS scores to the nursing department unless specifically requested.
 - e. You may begin the application process before the TEAS is completed but your application will not be processed until the score is submitted.
 - f. We do not substitute or accept SAT, ACT, or GRE scores for the TEAS.
 - g. You may repeat the exam if you score less than 70. We will only consider your latest score.
 - h. Scores must be received by Admissions by August 31, 2018.
3. **Complete the Advance 2 BSN Transcript Self-Review form at the end of this Application Guide.**
 - a. Review your own transcripts to see which prerequisites are complete.
 - b. You need a minimum GPA of 2.75 for your undergraduate degree, and a Science Composite minimum GPA of 2.75 (use the form to calculate).
 - c. Between June 1 and August 31 you will mail the form to:
Carolyn Meehan PhD RN
ATTN: Cohort 15
930 East Lincoln Highway: Suite 100
Exton PA 19341-2848
4. **Apply online at the WCU Undergraduate Admissions page between August 15 and August 31, 2018.**
 - a. Applications to WCU open August 15 and close August 30, 2018.
 - b. Go to WCU Admissions at http://www.wcupa.edu/_admissions/sch_adm/default.aspx
 - c. Select the **Apply Now** tab and select **Apply for Spring or Fall 2019 Enrollment**. Then press the **Continue** button at the bottom of the screen. Create an application account the first time you begin the process. The application process and fees are the same as all other undergraduate programs.
 - d. Application type is: **Transfer**.
Starting semester: **Fall 2019** [in reality the program will begin in May 2017]. No second choice of major is required.
Pick your major as: **Nursing-Advance 2 BSN (bachelor's degree required)** from the pop-up menu.
 - e. Application Essay (under **Personal Statement**):
In the essay block write an essay on "Why I want to be a Registered Nurse".

- f. Transcripts of ALL previous undergraduate grades (even if not needed for transfer) must be sent to Admissions. Transcripts may be sent electronically to Admissions from the previous school, or have them mailed directly to Admissions from your previous schools. NO high school transcripts, SAT, GRE scores, or reference letters are needed. **[Please note: WCU transcripts DO NOT need to be sent to Admissions, the nursing department can access them directly]**
- g. Undergraduate transcripts from universities outside the USA must submit a transcript review as outlined at http://www.wcupa.edu/_admissions/sch_adm/international.aspx
Costs for this review are the responsibility of the applicant.
- h. You do not need to include information about your parents on the application.
- i. Applications and all higher education transcripts must be received by Admissions by October 15, 2017.
Please Note: The Nursing Department Admissions Committee will not review applications until all required transcripts and scores are submitted to WCU Admissions.

TEAS scores and official transcripts are sent to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
100 W. Rosedale Ave.
West Chester PA 19383

Or online at: UGAdmissions@wcupa.edu

- 5. **If you meet the eligibility requirements, and are a superior candidate from among the applicants, you will be offered an opportunity to participate in a small-group interview on campus.**
 - a. Applicants will be judged on Overall GPA, Science Composite GPA, TEAS score, and number of prerequisites completed. At the interview you will be judged on your interview performance and quality of response to a written clinical problem exercise.
 - b. Interviews will be held from September through October, or until the Cohort is filled.
 - c. Details about the interview will be sent to you if you are selected.

- 6. **Successful applicants will be sent letters of admission by November, 2018.**
 - a. Admission notices via e-mail will begin in October after initial interviews.
 - b. Once Cohort 15 is filled, no more applications will be accepted.
 - c. Closure of applications will be announced on the program website.

- 7. **Cohort 15 classes will begin May 28, 2019.**
 - a. An all-day orientation session will be held the week before classes begin.
 - b. If you choose to take NSG 310: Human Responses to Disease you may take that in the Spring semester beginning January 2019.

If you have questions please write to Dr. Carolyn Meehan, Advance-2-BSN Program Coordinator, at cmeehan@wcupa.edu

Admission Eligibility Checklist

Use this checklist to see if you have the requirements to apply to the Advance 2 BSN program.
This worksheet is only for your planning purposes. DO NOT submit this form to WCU.

- _____ Completed a bachelor's degree by May 2019 from an accredited institution in any discipline other than nursing (or a WCU student nearing completion of a non-nursing degree).
- _____ Graduated with at a GPA of at least 2.75.
- _____ TEAS score of at least 70. Score must be newer than August 31, 2016.
- _____ Composite Science GPA of at least 2.75 (see Composite Science GPA Worksheet) by August 31, 2018.
(GPA of WCU equivalent prerequisite science courses of Introductory Biology (may substitute with your microbiology grade in the Science GPA calculation if you have not yet had an introductory biology course), Introductory Chemistry with Lab, and two levels of Anatomy & Physiology [A&P II must be newer than Spring 2016). You may apply if courses are still in progress. Priority is given to those with more completed courses.
- _____ Completed, or will have completed, all other prerequisite courses by May 20, 2019 (see Self-Transcript Review form). Failure to complete these by May 2019 will result in your acceptance being withdrawn. You may apply if a few of these courses are in progress but not yet complete.
- _____ Meets the technical standards for admission, academic progression, and graduation (see Technical Standards Policy in WCU Undergraduate Student Handbook: available at <http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/healthsciences/nursing/handbooks.asp>).
- _____ Have no felony convictions or legal restrictions to nursing licensure in Pennsylvania.
- _____ Eligible to legally live as a student in the United States.
- _____ Native English speaker or scores at least a 80 on TOEFL exam or as specified on the International Student Admissions page at http://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_adm/internationaladmissions.asp
If your bachelor's degree is from a non-USA university you will need to pay for a transcript review as described on the International Student Admissions page.

Advance 2 BSN Prerequisite Courses

In addition to an earned bachelor's degree all students must have the following courses completed before beginning the program. Admission priority is given to those with most of these complete at the time of application.

Required Course	Required Credits	WCU course offering
Basic Biological Science	3 credits	BIO100
Anatomy & Physiology (I & II) with Lab*	8 credits	BIO259 & BIO269
General Chemistry for Health Sciences with Lab **	4 credits minimum, must include a lab	CHE107 & CRL107
Introductory Microbiology with Lab	4 credits	BIO204
Introduction to Sociology	3 credits	SOC200
Introduction to Psychology	3 credits	PSY100
Human Development or Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan	3 credits	PSY210 or HEA206
Introductory Principles of Nutrition	3 credits	NTD 303
Introductory Statistics	3 credits	MAT121

* Anatomy & Physiology must be taken within 3 years of starting the program
(The second course must be completed in the Spring 2016 or newer for Cohort 15).
Both parts must be taken at the same school. See FAQ for details.

** Completion of 8 credits in CHE/CRL 103 and 104 at WCU is also equivalent. CHE/CRL 107 at WCU is 5-credits. We will transfer 4-credit introductory chemistry courses that include a lab as equivalent to our CHE requirement.

Most prerequisite courses either in-class or online with similar titles and the same credit load from accredited 2- or 4-year colleges and universities will transfer as WCU equivalents. Be sure to note that BIO 259, BIO 269, BIO 204, and Introductory Chemistry require a lab.

Composite Science-GPA Calculation Worksheet

1. Record **Grade Earned** for each WCU course or its equivalent.
 - Only grades of C or better will be accepted.
2. Record **Numeric Grade Value** (from chart at bottom).
3. Multiply *Numeric Grade Value* by *Number of Credit Hours* and record in **Quality Points** column.
4. Add the *Quality Points* scores and record in the **Total Quality Points** box.
5. Divide **Total Quality Points** by 16 (or actual # credits completed) and record **Composite Science GPA**.
 - Minimum Composite Science GPA for admission is 2.75

WCU Course	Grade Earned	Numeric Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points (Numeric Grade x Credit Hours)
EXAMPLE	B-	2.67	3	8.01 (i.e., 2.67 x 3)
BIO 100			3	
CHE 107			4	
CRL 107			1	
BIO 259			4	
BIO 269			4	

Numeric Grade Value	
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00

Total Quality Points	
Total Credit Hours	16 (or the number of credits you took)
Composite Science GPA (Divide: Total Quality Points/16 or your Total Credit Hours)	

West Chester University of PA: Advance 2 BSN Transcript Self-Review

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

College where you earned bachelor's degree: _____ Date degree earned: _____ Home City/State: _____

Bachelor degree major: _____ GPA: _____ Science Composite GPA: _____ TEAS score: _____

WCU Course	Credits	WCU Course Number	Transfer College Name	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Date Completed	Grade
Introductory Biology	3	BIO100						
Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab	4	BIO259*						
Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab	4	BIO269*						
General Chemistry with Lab	4 or 5	CHE & CRL 107**						
General Microbiology with Lab	3	BIO204						
Introduction to Sociology	3	SOC200						
Introduction to Psychology	3	PSY100						
Human Development OR Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan	3	PSY210 or HEA206						
Introductory Statistics I	3	MAT121						
Principles of Nutrition	3	NTD 303						

* Anatomy & Physiology must be taken within 3 years of starting program (Completed A&P II in Spring 2016 or newer); A&P I & II must be taken at the same school.

** Completing both CHE/CRL 103 & 104 (8 credits total) from WCU is also equivalent to CHE/CRL 107.

Mail this form to: Carolyn Meehan PhD RN/ Attn: Cohort 15 Applicant / WCU Nursing / 930 East Lincoln Hwy Suite 100 / Exton PA 19341. Send all other documents to WCU Admissions.

Comments: