

UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVE SELECTION RECOMMENDATION GUIDE

Students in the School of Nursing are frequently looking for guidance on choosing which courses will fulfill the “Upper Division Elective” requirement for the RN to BSN program. Some students want to fulfill this requirement while still in the Associate Degree RN program. Others are looking for a course to take while in the RN to BSN program.

In general, the Upper Division requirement entails completing one 3 credit hour Upper Division Course of the students choosing. That is why it is referred to as an “Elective”. Any course which is a 3000 or 4000 level (300 or 400), and does not require a prerequisite, is available to choose from. Some students are seeking more specific advice or guidance in choosing an appropriate course. In an effort to help students make an informed decision, the following guidelines are offered:

- ✎ What is the Education/Career Goal? Is the student’s goal to complete a BSN degree with no continuation? Or is the student planning on applying for graduate school? (For some, the answer may indeed include graduate school after completing their RN to BSN Degree.)

<i>Graduate School?</i>

If students are thinking about pursuing a graduate degree in nursing (specifically nursing) then appropriate recommendations would include courses which would also work for Graduate School in Nursing.

For the **Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Leader: Executive** or **Nurse Leader: Educator** tracks or the **Master of Science - Nurse Practitioner** Programs that are **offered through the WSU School of Nursing** at Weber State University students will need to take an Advanced College Writing course. Two courses at WSU which have been identified as appropriate advanced writing courses are:

English 3100 - Professional & Technical Writing (3) [Sometimes offered online or hybrid and for sure Independent Study . (801)626-6600

English 3210 - Advanced College Writing (3)

Please note if one of these two courses does not work for you then there are other courses around the state of Utah that have been pre-approved by our MSN Administration that will also count for the Advanced Writing Course Requirement for WSN MSN applicants: <http://apps.weber.edu/wsuiimages/Nursing/MSN/MSN1617AdvWr.pdf>

For students pursuing degrees in other graduate programs (Nurse Practitioner, CRNA, etc.), then most programs require a statistics course. Historically, nursing students at WSU have selected from one of these three courses (note: this is actually the same course just cross listed in three departments):

Social Statistics: *Sociology 3600(3) or *Psychology 3600(3) or *Gerontology 3600(3)

***These courses may require that you have met WSU Math Q.L. requirement with Math 1030, 1040 or 1050. Simply having a previous AS Degree in Nursing from WSU or other state school may not be sufficient prerequisite for the statistics courses. Consult the department offering the course for clarification.**

Please note: All nursing students pursuing graduate degrees should contact the college or university of their choosing to verify exact requirements.

Not sure about graduate school right now?

Many students are unsure of their future plans for graduate school. Some students may be considering graduate school in other fields. Yet others are simply looking for whatever course they can find to fulfill the 3 credit hour “Upper Division Requirement” for their RN to BSN degree.

The following recommendations are provided:

- Choose a course that meets your needs. Such things as when the course is taught. If it is taught online? Does it conflict with other nursing courses?
- Choose a course that interests you. Simply choosing just any course is not a good recommendation. Choose a course that has your interest and might help with other goals you have established.
- Choose a course that might help you as a “Health Professional” in general
- Most importantly choose a course you are willing to work hard in so that you pass it with an appropriate grade.

Listed below, are courses taught at Weber State University which might work as students consider these recommendations:

A new course taught through the **Paramedic Department: PAR 3110 - Critical Care Transport** will be offered the first block of summer semester each year. It may be of interest to many of you.

Courses from the **Health Administrative Services Department** in the Dumke College of Health Professions that are 3000 or 4000 level that do not require a prerequisite. See the online WSU Catalog listing for Health Administrative Services Courses. This department teaches courses in Health Promotion, Health Care Marketing, Health Communication, Health Care Administrative and Supervisory Theory, Health Care Financial Administration, etc.

Courses that help students **interact with people in different stages of life, age, or background**. Courses in this category include:

Psychology 3430 - Theories of Personality (3)
Psychology 3100 - Psychology of Diversity (3)
Psychology 3010 - Abnormal Psychology (3)
Psychology 3460 - Social Psychology (3) or Sociology 3000 - Social Psychology (3)
Gerontology 3000 - Death and Dying (3)
Gerontology 3120 - Aging: Adaptation and Behavior (3)
Health 3400 - Substance Abuse Prevention (3)
Health 3500 - Human Sexuality (3)

Course specific to helping **healthcare practitioners understand medications** used today in diagnosing and treating diseases:

Health Science 3240 - Introduction to Pharmacology (3)

HONORS

If students are pursuing “Departmental Honors in Nursing” the following course is required:
Nursing 4840 - Honors Seminar in Nursing (3) - required course for all nursing students accepted in the WSU Honors program and have been working toward graduating with “Dept. Honors in Nursing”.

ROTC

If you are an ROTC/Nursing students then these two courses MS 4010 (3) & MS 4020 (3) are Military Science course available for WSU ARMY ROTC Cadets.

Some students absolutely need a course that is taught online only due to their schedule. Students are encouraged to contact the WSU CE/Online Student Support at (801)626-6600 for assistance finding courses that are specifically online that are from the courses listed in this document.

*–prepared by the WSU School of Nursing Enrollment Director- Updated September 2015. **Considered recommendations!***

Please contact Robert Holt, School of Nursing Enrollment Director at rholt@weber.edu or RM#431 if you have questions about this document or anything related to RN to BSN progression.