Academic Offerings

This section contains descriptions of programs, majors, minors, areas of concentration, fields of specialization, and courses. Semesters following course titles indicate when each course is normally offered. On rare occasions, a course may not be available when indicated because of low enrollment or unexpected staffing changes.

Courses listed as Fall Odd and Spring Even are scheduled to be offered during the 2015-16 academic year. i.e., fall 2015-16 is Fall Odd, spring 2015-16 is Spring Even.

Nursing

The bachelor of science in nursing is a four-year program of study. Within the unique collaborative curriculum, students complete a course of study that combines a traditional associate's degree in nursing with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. This program is possible through an ongoing partnership with St. Luke's College in Sioux City, Iowa. All students must complete Dordt’s Core Program requirements, as well as all of St. Luke's requirements for the associate's degree. Students spend all four years (eight semesters) as full-time residents on Dordt’s campus. Primarily all the coursework is done from Dordt’s campus with clinical rotations during the four semesters with St. Luke's College completed at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and surrounding geographic areas.

Students are eligible for NCLEX-RN state board licensure examination upon successful completion of the associate in nursing degree portion of the coursework, typically at the end of the third year. Year four focuses on upper division nursing courses for the completion of the B.S.N. degree. The St. Luke’s A.S.N. program is approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing and fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. The Dordt B.S.N. program is approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing. Accreditation was granted by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2007. (CCNE, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036-1120, (202) 887-6791)

General Major–


110 Professional Development I (1 credit, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the first in a series of four professional development courses. Nursing 110 introduces the concepts of roles of student nurse and health care team members, regulatory guidelines of nursing, therapeutic communication, evidenced-based practice, theory based decision-making, and cultural sensitivity. Prerequisite for Nursing 220, 225, 226, 230.

112 Pharmacology in Nursing Practice I (1 credit, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the first in a series of three pharmacology courses. Nursing 112 introduces pharmacological concepts with a focus on developing beginning competency in medication administration via percutaneous, enteral, intradermal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular routes. Prerequisite for Nursing 116, 222, 225, 226, 232.

115 Foundations of Nursing I (2 credits, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the first in a series of two nursing foundation courses. Nursing 115 introduces concepts that are fundamental to professional nursing. The concepts include terminology, safety, basic skills, principles of teaching and learning, health assessment, documentation, and the nursing process. Prerequisite for Nursing 116, 222, 225, 226.

116 Foundations of Nursing II (2 credits, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the second in a series of two nursing foundation courses. Nursing 116 builds on the concepts introduced in Nursing 112-Pharmacology in Nursing Practice and Nursing 115-Foundations of Nursing I. This course introduces the student to clinical nursing practice and focuses on the basic concepts of protective mechanisms, pain and sensation, mobility, sleep and rest, nutrition, elimination, oxygenation, circulation, and perioperative care. Prerequisite for Nursing 222, 225, 226.

220 Professional Development II (1 credit, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the second in a series of four professional development courses. Nursing 220 builds on the basic concepts of the health care team member, regulatory guidelines of nursing, therapeutic communication, evidenced-based practice, theory based decision-making, and cultural sensitivity. Prerequisite for Nursing 230, 235, 236.

222 Pharmacology in Nursing Practice II (1 credit, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course is the second in a series of three pharmacology courses. Nursing 222 introduces the principles of intravenous therapy, and focuses on nursing responsibilities associated with the administration of antimicrobials, and drugs affecting the neurological and reproductive systems. The course builds on the concepts of pharmacodynamics and safe medication administration introduced in Nursing 112-Pharmacology in Nursing Practice I. Prerequisite for Nursing 232, 235, 236.
This fourth level course is the final nursing course of the ASN curriculum. Nursing 246 includes summative review of nursing theory and practice aimed at facilitating the transition from student to novice nurse generalist. The course includes a clinical preceptorship with a registered nurse in clinical practice.

**Healthcare Ethics I** (2 credits, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course will provide the groundwork from which ethical issues can be analyzed and then considered in light of current ethical theories, as well as a Reformed framework. Nursing ethics and ethical decision making are explored. Ethics in professional nursing practice will be emphasized. Nursing ethics across the lifespan will be explored with emphasis on reproductive issues, infant/child, adolescent nursing ethics, and psychiatric/mental health.

**Healthcare Ethics II** (1 credit, Offered by St. Luke’s)
This course builds upon the groundwork provided in Nursing 200 (Healthcare Ethics I) wherein ethical issues were analyzed and considered in light of current ethical theories as well as a Reformed framework. Nursing ethics inquiry continues across the lifespan with ethics pertinent to psychiatric/mental health, care of elders, community/public health, and issues in end-of-life care. Ethics in professional Christian nursing practice will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Nursing 200.
Students will engage in an introductory study of culture and its influence on behavior. Specific cross-cultural issues that affect health care delivery are discussed. Students will consider the worldviews of modern cultures and the implications for Christian discipleship; define health and illness as Christian individuals and part of the community as a whole; and comprehend traditional and alternative health care practices, incorporating religious beliefs, practices, and rituals. A phenomenological assessment is applied to the populations studied. Prerequisites: BSN major or junior standing; permission of instructor. [Cross-listed: CORE 275]

Foundation concepts and nursing theories are explored as they apply to professional nursing practice. Nursing philosophies, theories, and historical influences are examined. Nursing philosophies and theories will be explored for their consistency/ inconsistency with a Christian view of nursing. Prerequisite: enrollment in BSN program; or permission of instructor.

The knowledge and skills for professional assessment and health promotion across the lifespan are covered along with related physiologic concepts. Students will develop skills related to comprehensive health assessment of the individual client which will be used as the basis for decision making and intervention. Theory and laboratory practice provide guidance in assessing physical, psychological, sociocultural and faith dimensions of the individual. Two lecture hours and one laboratory period of three hours per week. Prerequisites: enrollment in BSN program; evidence of valid R.N. license to practice in Iowa; or permission of instructor.

The research process is introduced. A basic overview of research design, evidence-based practice and research utilization is presented. Students critique professional literature. Students develop an evidence based practice project that provides for application of research principles to nursing practice. Prerequisites: enrollment in BSN program; Nursing 320; or permission of instructor.

This course focuses on the analysis of the family within the context of community-oriented nursing practice utilizing public health nursing and community health nursing strategies. It utilizes the study of the promotion of health along with the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of health problems of a population. The course focus is on the family as the client with nursing care of individuals, families and groups. The clinical component focuses upon utilizing a community-based nursing approach to health care delivery in the home setting. Two lecture hours per week and forty-five clinical hours per semester. Prerequisites: senior status in BSN nursing program; evidence of valid R.N. license to practice in Iowa.

Concepts and theories of public and community health and relational influences are addressed. Students will incorporate knowledge of nursing research, process, and decision-making in assessing the community as the client; explore epidemiology, community empowerment, and community-nursing partnering for the health of the community; and collaborate with members of other disciplines and with consumers in planning for community health when applied to the community setting. The clinical experience emphasizes community based service learning within the context of a Christian perspective in professional nursing practice. Opportunities are provided to actively participate in various community settings and areas of service. Two lecture hours per week and ninety clinical hours per semester. Prerequisites: enrollment in BSN program; evidence of valid R.N. license to practice in Iowa.

An intensive clinical practicum in which the student will manage a client workload with all of its duties and responsibilities with the guidance of a professional nursing mentor. Students will work in a local area health care system, with an emphasis on learning while serving. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

This capstone course concentrates discussion of Christian nursing practice within a broader perspective of a Reformed Christian worldview. It examines conflicting worldviews, prominent theoretical frameworks used to explain and guide professional nursing practice, and the integration of Christian caring while performing the various roles of the professional nurse. Students develop their individual philosophical perspective of nursing practice. The ability to conceptualize issues, apply critical thinking, theoretical reflection, and serviceable insight to political, economic, and psychosocial issues and trends affecting nursing and health care is facilitated. Prerequisites: CORE 200; enrollment in BSN program; or permission of instructor. [Cross-listed: CORE 317]