

Weber State University
Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing

UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVE SELECTION RECOMMENDATION GUIDE

Students in the Annie Taylor Dee 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 student's choosing. That is why it is referred to as an “Elective”. Any course that 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 goal to complete a BSN degree with no continuation? Or is the goal to apply for graduate school? (For some, the answer may indeed include graduate school after completing their RN to BSN Degree.)

Graduate School?

Students who are thinking about pursuing a graduate degree in nursing *may* want to consider the following courses:

Advanced writing course-

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

ENGL 3210 - Advanced College Writing (3)

A Statistics course: Social Statistics: *SOC 3600(3) or *PSY 3600(3) or *GERT 3600(3)

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

Please note: Neither the Advanced Writing nor the Statistics course is required by the WSU MSN or DNP programs, but is encouraged and may be required by other Graduate Nursing Programs. Students should consult an advisor. All nursing students pursuing graduate degrees should contact the college/university of their choice to verify 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. Is it taught online? Does it conflict with my other nursing courses?
- Choose a course that interests you. Simply choosing 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 on the next page are courses taught at Weber State University that students may want to consider.

A **NURSING** Course that counts for the Upper Division Elective (will not count as a BSN Elective, of which 2 are required). However, this will count as the one 3-hour Upper Division Elective if you so choose.:

NRSG 3440 (3) – Resiliency in your Health Care Profession (formerly Coping with your Profession)

Study Abroad opportunity (that will count as the Upper Division Elective or BSN level elective (of which 2 are required in the BSN program):

NRSG 4850 (3) [take for at least 3 hours] - Study Abroad **(For those with an active RN license already currently)**

The purpose of this course is to provide opportunities for students in health professions to experience a study abroad program that is designed to explore healthcare, culture, and clinical experience. *Please note additional costs and details related to each opportunity. Consult with those who offer the study abroad experience.

A course that helps with both a humanities and science background as it relates to empathy in healthcare and the human side of medicine – English 3810 – Intro. to Medical / Health Humanities

A course taught through the Paramedic Department: PAR 3110 - Critical Care Transport will be offered the first block of the summer semester each year. RN's must have at least 2 years of work experience in the ER to be eligible for this course. See the department.

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:

FAM 4450 – Children and Families in the Medical Setting
GERT 3000 - Death and Dying (3)
GERT 3120 - Aging: Adaptation and Behavior (3)
HLTH 3400 - Substance Abuse Prevention (3)
HLTH 3500 - Human Sexuality (3)
PSY 3430 - Theories of Personality (3) PSY
3100 - Psychology of Diversity (3)
PSY 3010 - Abnormal Psychology (3)
PSY 3460 - Social Psychology (3) or SOC 3000 - Social Psychology (3)

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

HTHS 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 who have been working toward graduating with “Dept. Honors in Nursing”.

ROTC

If you are an ROTC/Nursing student, then these two courses, MS 4010 (3) & MS 4020 (3), are Military Science courses 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 and are from the courses listed in this document.

Updated August 18, 2025 *Considered recommendations only!*

If you have questions about this document or anything related to RN to BSN progression:

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