



Bachelor of Science- Nursing (BScN)



Student Handbook 2016/2017

General Information

Introduction

Welcome to Dalhousie School of Nursing! As you begin your studies, it is important for you to become familiar with university regulations, Faculty of Health Professions and School of Nursing policies. This student reference guide is meant to provide you with an overview of information that you may require during the course of your studies.

Dalhousie University

Dalhousie University is one of Canada's leading universities widely recognized for outstanding academic quality and the opportunities presented by our broad range of educational and research activities. Dalhousie has been a vibrant part of the Halifax community since 1818 and attracts high achieving, motivated and engaged students from around the world.

The Faculty of Health Professions

The Faculty of Health Professions is comprised of eight schools, one college, two programs, more than 200 faculty members and 50 staff members. With almost 2500 students, it boasts the third largest body at Dalhousie University.

The School of Nursing

The School of Nursing has two locations:

1. Forrest Building, in Halifax. This building was constructed in 1887 and was Dalhousie's original building on its current campus.
2. Beulah Raymond Hall, in Yarmouth. This location is connected to the Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

Established in 1949, the School offers BScN, BScN (Arctic Nursing), Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner, Master of Nursing (MN), Health Administration (MN/MHA) and PhD (Nursing) programs.

The School of Nursing advances health and social justice by educating nurses, applying nursing knowledge and informing health related public policy. Since 1995, the BScN collaborative program has been offered through the Yarmouth campus site.

About the BScN program

The Bachelor of Science-Nursing (BScN) program responds to the demand of a changing healthcare system. The university offers student the best of both the academic and professional worlds through its collaborative delivery partnerships with Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, IWK (for children, women and families), the Reproductive Care Program of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Hospital and the Western Regional Health Care Centre (Yarmouth).

Through a rigorous course of study, the BScN program at Dalhousie prepares exemplary practitioners to work in partnership with individuals, families, groups, communities and/or populations to promote, maintain and strengthen health. Graduates meet national entry level competencies, are eligible for registration in provinces and territories within Canada, and are ready to pursue specialty and/or graduate level nursing studies

Program Schedule

The program schedule can be found on the following page:

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/healthprofessions/nursing/current-students/program-schedules.html>

IPHE 4900

All students in the Faculty of Health Professions are required to register for the IPHE 4900.03 (Interprofessional Health Education) for each term of their degree program.

The Clinical Learning Simulation Centre (CLSC)

The Clinical Learning Simulation Centre (CLSC) provides a setting in which students develop nursing competencies, communication skills, technical skills and health/physical assessments through demonstrations, practice and assessment/evaluation of their performance. The simulated clinical setting found in the CLSC seeks to promote competence, critical thinking and confidence in the students during the learning experience, thus enabling the student to competently and safely transfer their skills to a health care setting.

Academic Information

[Dalhousie Undergraduate Calendar](#)

All students at Dalhousie should be familiar with the information and academic regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar for their school, faculty and the university. The calendar covers everything from the admission to degree requirements to convocation. It also contains a full description (including individual course descriptions) for all programs at Dalhousie.

[Grading Scheme](#)

The School of Nursing has a standardized method for converting numerical grades assigned for coursework to letter grades (for submission to the Office of the Registrar).

Policies, Regulations and Appeals

[Faculty of Health Professions Policies](#)

Full academic and professional policies and regulations, in addition to those below, for students in the Faculty of Health Professions can be found [here](#):

- Guidelines for personal safety in fieldwork placements
- Student health disclosure policy
- Statement regarding criminal record checks
- Professional unsuitability

[School of Nursing Policies](#)

Below are a few of the current full academic and professional policies and regulations for students in the BScN program:

- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Dress Uniform Policy](#)
- [Re-entry Policy](#)
- [IPHE Policy](#)
- [Preclinical Requirements](#)
- [Dosage Calculation Competency Policy](#)

[More Policies](#)

Academic Appeals Procedures

A student wishing to start the academic appeal process would first contact their Academic Advisor. If it is felt that there has been an irregularity or unfairness regarding academic matters, for example: evaluation, academic or clinical work, waiver of regulations, or other regulations and policies of the School of Nursing, the student can then bring their concern to the Assistant Director, Undergraduate Studies.

When the informal process has not resolved these issues there are two forms of appeal procedures which may be used by students:

- [Reassessment of Grade and Final Assignment](#)
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Uniforms

Students are expected to dress in a professional, well-groomed manner. Uniforms and lab coats are required in Clinical Learning Simulation sessions. For clinical experiences, clean, wrinkle free, well-fitting black and white uniforms are mandatory.

The school crest must be placed on the upper left sleeve of both the uniform and lab coat; it can be purchased at the Health Sciences Bookstore.

Professional, supportive footwear is required. Finger nails must be clean and trimmed. Students must wear Dalhousie identification where it is easily visible.

Please see our [Dress and Uniform Policy](#) for more information.

In addition, students must adhere to any dress policies specific to the agency where they are practicing.



Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing

It is a regulation of the Faculty of Health Professions and affiliated Health Care agencies that all students must be immunized for Diphtheria- tetanus (dT), Polio, Measles (Rubella), Hepatitis B and Varicella before they can participate in the clinical component of their program.

In addition to the required immunizations, evidence of Tuberculin (2-step Mantoux test) is also required of all students in the Faculty of Health Professions.

CPR & First Aid Requirements

Students in the School of Nursing are required to have current Standard First Aid and the Level HCP (Health Care Provider) CPR certification. Renewal of the HCP Level CPR may be required during your program. Standard First Aid certification is only required on entrance to the program, unless otherwise required by clinical agencies. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Search (CRC/VSS)

All students admitted to the School of Nursing are required to submit a current (within 6 months of September admission) Criminal Record Check, including a Vulnerable Sector Search (CRC/VSS). More information can be found on our [website](#).

Resources for students

University Resources

Dalhousie University provides [services to help guide](#) your study, work and campus life. These links to resources allow quick access to a wealth of information at Dalhousie. The links provided make it easy for you to find what you are looking for. As you move through each academic year, you will have new questions, need new information and encounter new opportunities to explore.

School of Nursing Resources

[Program Coordinators](#) are available to assist enrolled students with their program concerns and/or inquiries.

Alumni Fund for New Ventures Development

The School of Nursing's Alumni Fund for [New Ventures Development](#) enables faculty and students to pursue projects that will visibly advance the mission and goals of the School of Nursing's Academic Plan.

Academic Awards (Nursing)

There are a number of awards specifically for BScN students, including in-course scholarships and convocation awards. For a complete list see the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) and the [School of Nursing website](#).

For more information on general scholarships, bursaries and financial aid see moneymatters.dal.ca.

School, Student and Other Important Organizations

Committees

Administrative and academic decisions which ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the School are made, through committees.

Student representation on school committees varies. Dalhousie Nursing Societies elect students to sit on the following committees:

- School Council
- Full Faculty
- Undergraduate Studies Committee
- Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee
- Student Appeals Committee
- Diversity Committee

Dalhousie University Nursing Society (DUNS/YDUNS)

DUNS serves all undergraduate students of the Dalhousie School of Nursing by promoting activities to foster student comradery. The Nursing Society is a leader and partner in providing support (academic, social, emotional, physical and financial) to nursing students.

Any member of the Halifax DUNS Executive may be contacted by emailing DUNS@dal.ca. The Yarmouth DUNS Executive can be contacted at: www.nursing.dal.ca/Yarmouth/DUNS

Global Health Opportunities

Students can develop skills in global health both in Canada and overseas. Opportunities include:

- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES)
For more information on QES visit:
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/qeii-scholarships/about.html>
- Practicum Placements
For more information about all opportunities contact the Global Health Office at
gho@dal.ca.
- Advocates in Global Health Certificate
- Global Health Mini-course (IPHE)

Nursing Honor Society

Dalhousie School of Nursing maintains the Rho Rho Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Undergraduate students are eligible to apply to join the society if they:

- Have completed at least half of the required nursing curriculum
- Rank in the top 35% of their class
- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale)

*Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chapter's governance committee.
Contact the Assistant Director, Undergraduate Studies

