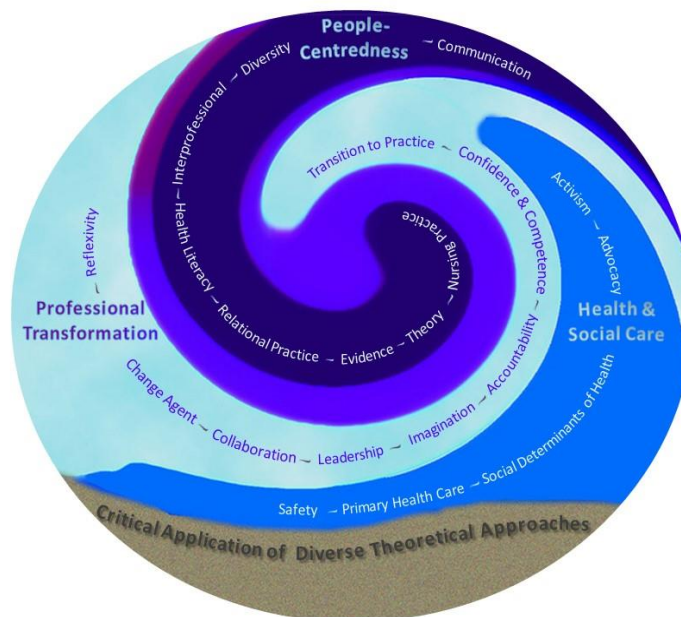




Bachelor of Science Nursing (BScN)

Student Handbook 2023-2024



Dalhousie School of Nursing
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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, and School of Nursing policies. This student reference guide is meant to provide you with an overview of information that you may require during 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

The Faculty of Health is one of the largest faculties at Dalhousie, comprised of eight schools, one college and one program, more than 200 faculty members, 80 staff members, and over 3,000 students. The most programmatically diverse health faculty in Canada, our students are exposed to a broad range of health topics and learning experiences.

The School of Nursing

The School of Nursing was established in 1949 and is part of Dalhousie's Faculty of Health Professions (FHP). Our success is reflected by the **professional competence and compassion** of our graduates, the quality of **research produced** by our faculty and the contributions we make to **health-related public policy**. The school offers BScN, BScN (Arctic Nursing), Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner, Master of Nursing (MN), Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) 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.

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.

About the BScN program

The Bachelor of Science-Nursing (BScN) program responds to the demand of a changing healthcare system. The university offers students the best of both the academic and professional worlds through its collaborative delivery partnerships with Shannex and Northwood Long Term Care Centres, Nova Scotia Health, IWK Health Centre, 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. Graduates are eligible to practice as a graduate nurse and apply to write the NCLEX-RN Licensure Examination.

Program Schedule

The program schedule can be found on the following page:

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

IPE 4900

Students are required to maintain enrolment in IPHE 4900 (see calendar section on Health Professions, Interprofessional Health Education) for the duration of their studies. Successful completion of this course is a requirement for graduation in these programs and will be recognized further with the awarding of a special Certificate in Interprofessional Collaboration; to be presented by the Faculty of Health.

Nursing Certificate Options

The School of Nursing offers Nursing Certificates as an **option** to undergraduate students in the BScN program. Currently, there are several approved Nursing Certificates with other Nursing Certificate options currently in development. Nursing Certificate options are listed on the School of Nursing website. Not all nursing certificates will be offered every semester. Each certificate has two, three-credit hour online theory courses and a six-credit hour clinical practicum course (Nursing 4715 for all certificates). The theoretical courses aim to maximize the students' knowledge, skills, and abilities in relation to specific areas of nursing.

The certificates are an option for undergraduate students once they complete Semester 5 of the modified BScN program. They are **not a requirement** to graduate. The graduation **requirement** is that all students have 6 credit hours of nursing electives, but students **do not** have to complete a specific nursing certificate.

- **Acute/Critical Care Nursing**

Nursing 4471 (Summer/Fall): Emergency Preparedness: A Nursing Perspective: This course focuses on preparation of future nurses for various hazards using an "all hazards" approach. Local, provincial and national disaster response systems, in the event of a mass casualty, are explored, and the ability to care for victims and responders of all types of hazards is emphasized.

Nursing 4472 (Fall/Winter): Acute and Critical Care Nursing: With the focus on acute and critical care nursing in the intensive care and emergency room areas, students will further develop, critically analyze and apply knowledge gained in previous courses with a focus on the management of critically ill clients. Emphasis includes working with clients across the lifespan and inter-professional relationships within specialty practice.

- **Mental Health Nursing**

NURS 4371 (Summer/Winter): Addictions Nursing Practice: This nursing elective introduces major concepts associated with addiction nursing practice. It provides a foundation for students pursuing careers in addiction-related care. Within a primary healthcare perspective, students critique models and theories of addiction, consider the interplay between social, gender, cultural environments and addictions and become knowledgeable of a variety of treatment approaches. Universal, selective, and prevention activities at an individual, family and community level are explored.

NURS 4372 (Fall): Mental Health Nursing: Students will gain insight into individuals' experiences of mental health problems, mental disorders/psychiatric illnesses, and addictions over the life course. Multiple perspectives, including biological, nursing, sociological, philosophical and political, will guide the analysis. Treatment modalities will be critiqued. The association between nurses' relational practices and individuals' quests for life fulfillment will be examined.

- **Oncology Nursing**

NURS 4352 (Summer/Fall): Exploring Concepts In Oncology: Introduction to concepts of oncology nursing including cancer biology/pathophysiology, pain and symptom management, bio-psychosocial-ethical issues, treatment modalities, psychosocial distress and decision-making across the cancer continuum. The implications of cancer care at the individual, community, organization/system to the global level are explored. Students learn the principles, standards and competencies underpinning quality of life cancer care.

NURS 4353 (Fall/Winter): Multi-dimensional Aspects of Cancer: Building on Exploring Concepts in Oncology, this course will challenge learners to consider the comprehensive care of a range of health and illness needs of individuals at risk for or living with cancer within a dynamic and changing system. The course reflects a critical analysis of the existing theoretical and evidence-informed perspectives influencing health related behaviours within the context of cancer at the individual, organizational and global levels.

- **Perinatal and Pediatric Nursing**

NURS 4420 (Summer/Winter): Pediatric Nursing: Recognizing the unique health needs of children, this course focuses on the synthesis of knowledge and the partnership between the nurse, child, family and interprofessional team. Students will integrate developmentally supportive, family-centred care and application of nursing management with the paediatric population experiencing serious episodic and persistent illness and hospitalization.

NURS 4410 (Fall): Perinatal Nursing across the Childbearing Continuum: Students build upon core curriculum knowledge of the perinatal experience. The nature of the childbearing experience is critically analyzed from multiple perspectives, while evidence-informed nursing care for childbearing families with health complexities is appraised. Theory underlining processes of maternal transformation, person-centered care, relational practice and parent-infant attachment overlay these analyses.

- **Public Health Nursing**

Nursing 4381 (Fall - St. FX): This course will be taught out of ST. FX. Public Health Nursing: This course provides an opportunity for students to advance their introductory knowledge of public health nursing principles, roles, and functions. Public health nursing integrates knowledge from public health and nursing science to promote, protect, improve and restore the health of populations. The focus will be on advancing their understanding and application of population health, priority setting and planning approaches, partnerships, public policy literacy and health equity.

Nursing 4380 (Summer/Winter): Introduction to Epidemiology Methods in Nursing Practice: This introductory course is intended to provide students at both the undergraduate and graduate level with a working knowledge and understanding of the basic concepts and methods of epidemiology. The main focus of this course will be to learn to analyse and interpret information about disease (i.e. both acute and chronic) and other health related occurrences at a population level (e.g. risk factors, diversity, determinants of health) within a Public and Community Health Nursing context. This course will also provide an introduction to the concepts for developing, implementing and evaluating public health programs and, for independent inquiry and decision making around public health policy. There are no prerequisites for this course though students are required to have completed their second year of their undergraduate program or have permission from the course instructor. A clinical background and a basic understanding of statistics for the Graduate students are essential but not necessary for Undergraduate students.

School of Nursing Academic Regulation

Regulations regarding progression, probation and academic dismissal can be found in the academic calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with these regulations as a failure in one or more courses over the course of the program will result in failure to progress and/or academic dismissal.

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

Grading Scheme (SoN) and CGPA calculator

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).

The Clinical Learning Simulation Centre (CLSC)

The Clinical Learning Simulation Centre (CLSC) provides a setting in which students develop nursing competencies, communication 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 transfer their skills competently and safely to a health care setting.

Academic Information

[Dalhousie Undergraduate Academic 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.

Policies, Regulations and Appeals

Faculty of Health Policies

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

[Policies and Procedures - Faculty of Health - Dalhousie University](#)

School of Nursing Policies

School of Nursing students should review the current student undergraduate policies regularly which can be found on the [nursing website](#).

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/current-students/student-handbooks-and-policies.html>

Academic Appeals Procedures

A student wishing to start the academic appeal process would first contact their course professor. 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 Associate Director, Undergraduate Student Affairs. 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 (currently being revised)**

https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/healthprofessions/School%20of%20Nursing/UG_docs/2018/SON_Process_for_Reassess_of_a_Grade_April_23_2018.pdf

- **Faculty of Health Student Appeals**

<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/healthprofessions/Current%20Students%20-%20Policies%20and%20Procedures/FH%20Student%20Appeals%20Committee%20ToR%20and%20Procedures.approved%20May%202022.pdf>

Professional Dress and Uniform Policy

Students are required to dress in a professional and well-groomed manner and wear required uniforms in designated settings. CLSC, Clinical Practicums, and Clinical Placements, please refer the Dalhousie Uniform Policy.

Students who do not adhere to this policy may be asked to leave the classroom or clinical area as determined by the Clinical Instructor and Course Professor. This will be noted on the student clinical evaluation.

Students are expected to dress in a professional, well-groomed manner. Uniforms are required in Clinical Integration courses. For clinical experiences, clean, wrinkle free, well-fitting black 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 [Dalhousie University Bookstore](#).

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

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

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

Immunizations

Newly admitted BScN students must complete the mandatory Faculty of Health Immunization Record Form. This form is to be completed by a health care professional (physician, nurse, practitioner, public health nurse) indicating:

(Please review form carefully for details of specific immunizations)

- Measles (Rubeola/Mumps /Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella
- Tetanus – Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)
- Hepatitis B (including HepAbserology indicating levels) this process can take up to 6 months to complete-begin process as soon as possible.
- Polio
- Sars-CoV-2 (COVID) vaccine (2 doses)

Standard First Aid

Newly admitted BScN students must be certified in Standard First Aid. A copy of this certification must be dated the year a student enters the program. This certification is for admission purposes only and a student will not be required to re-certify unless it is a specific requirement of the agency. For certification information please contact St. John Ambulance or the Canadian Red Cross.

CPR for Health Care Providers

Newly admitted BScN students must be certified in CPR at the Health Care Provider level. This certification is to be completed in the year the student is entering the program. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they renew their CPR certification on or before the expiration date.

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/current-students/Immunization,%20CPR,%20CRC-VSS%20and%20First%20Aid.html>

Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Search (CRC/VSS)

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

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/current-students/Immunization,%20CPR,%20CRC-VSS%20and%20First%20Aid.html>

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.

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.

The School of Nursing's Donor Fund for New Ventures Development supports current Faculty-led or student-led relevant and rigorous projects that advance the mission, vision, values, and strategic directions of the School of Nursing's Strategic Plan*. The source of funding is the generous donations to nursing at Dalhousie University. Since funding is based on donations, the total funding available may vary for each competition. Reports of funded projects will be posted on the School of Nursing website.

Academic Awards and Financial Aid

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. The Dalhousie Nursing Societies (DUNS) elect members of the student body to participate on these committees.

Dalhousie University Nursing Society (DUNS/YDUNS)

DUNS serves all undergraduate students at 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.

Contact information for the Halifax DUNS Executive can be found on the nursing [website](#). The Yarmouth DUNS Executive can be contacted via the Administrative Assistant for the Yarmouth site by email to rose.clements@nshealth.ca.

Center for Transformative Nursing and Health Research

Is a Dalhousie Senate-approved research centre which is nursing-led and interprofessional and the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada. We aim to develop a new vision for health care based on high quality transformational research as a platform to promote health and wellbeing. Our focus is on collaboration, capacity-building, networking and knowledge-translation.

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/research/CTNHR.html>

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/geii-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. The chapter holds an annual Induction ceremony to welcome new nurse leaders into the society.

All Graduate students are eligible for induction through invitation or self referral.

Undergraduate students are eligible to join the society if they:

- Have completed at least half (50%) of the nursing curriculum
- Rank in the top 35% of their class
- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale)

*Eligibility exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chapter's governance committee.

Contact the Rho Rho Chapter at rhohochaptersigma@gmail.com