

# Pre-Nursing Studies

Contemporary nursing is a demanding multifaceted calling that utilizes a wide variety of personal characteristics and technical skills such as: compassion, discernment in understanding complex human physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs, knowledge of disease processes and healing countermeasures, wisdom in approaching ethical issues in modern healthcare, ability to connect quickly and meaningfully with others, perseverance, attention to detail, the ability to quickly learn new methods and new technologies, flexibility in the face of changing health care delivery models, and the ability to responsibly exercise authority and to work under authority.

There are a variety of options for students who want to take advantage of a Covenant education as they prepare for a career in nursing. (A helpful resource on the web that gives a brief description of a variety of nursing education options is [www.allnursingschools.com/faqs/progtypes.php](http://www.allnursingschools.com/faqs/progtypes.php)).

1. a BA in the student’s major of choice, while also taking approximately 25 hours of natural and social science prerequisites for direct entry into an MSN/accelerated second degree BSN program. Prerequisites vary but typically include courses in human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, nutrition, statistics and developmental psychology.

2. a BA in Biology with a Health Professions concentration as a preparation for direct entry into an MSN/accelerated second degree BSN programs.

3. an AAS/BA dual degree in conjunction with Chattanooga State Technical Community College (CSTCC),

4. an MSN/BA dual degree with Vanderbilt University.

Contact Professor Wenger for further pre-nursing information.

## A BA in Biology with a Health Professions Concentration

As nurse practioners play an increasing role in delivering primary care as well as care in a variety of specialties, deeply and broadly educated nurses will be increasingly in demand. MSN programs now accept well qualified students who have majored in areas other than nursing in their

undergraduate programs. These “direct entry” programs are increasingly offered in an accelerated format of 2-2.5 years. A full biology major in the Health professions allows able students to take full advantage of the opportunities for Christian academic development at Covenant as well as to keep a wide variety of career options in the health professions open. For more information see the description of the Biology section and the requirements for the health professions concentration.

## Dual Degree with CSTCC

For those students who prefer to remain at Covenant College for four years and also graduate with a nursing degree, Covenant’s dual degree program with a local community college may be ideal. After four years of study, the student will earn a BA in natural science from Covenant College and an AAS in nursing from CSTCC, and may take the state boards for becoming an RN in the state of Tennessee. Important notes: 1) the nursing degree in this program is an Associate of Applied Science degree (an AAS) and not a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (a BSN). 2) In order to finish the dual degree in 4 years, students utilizing this option will need to take the required Microbiology course during the summer following their freshman year. Suitable courses are widely available at community colleges. Before taking a summer course, students should get the course approved for transfer (See Professor Wenger)

## Requirements for the AAS/BA Dual Degree with CSTCC

### Core Requirements:

BIB 111. Old Testament Introduction .....	3
BIB 142. New Testament Introduction.....	3
BIB 277-278. Christian Doctrine I, II.....	6
COR 100. Christian Mind.....	2
COR 225-226. Cultural Heritage of the West I, II.....	6
COR 325. Global Trends for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.....	3
COR 337. Intercultural Experience .....	1
COR 340. Christ and Culture Seminar .....	1
ENG 111. English Composition .....	3
HIS 325. Twentieth Century World History.....	3
MAT 141. College Algebra.....	4
Fine Arts Distribution Requirement .....	3
Foreign Language I, II.....	8
Humanities Distribution Requirement.....	3
Total core hours .....	49

### Major and Supporting Course Requirements

BIO 111-112. General Biology I, II .....	8
BIO 219. Nutrition .....	**3
BIO 220-221. Human Anatomy and Physiology I, II ‘W’ .....	**8
BIO 492-493. Senior Integration Paper I, II.....	2, 1

CHE 103-104. Introductory Chemistry I, II .....	8
ENG 252. Speech ‘S’ .....	2
NSC 301. Christian Issues in Nursing.....	2
PSY 100. General Psychology .....	**4
PSY 303. Developmental Psychology.....	**4
Microbiology course taken at another institution during the summer following the freshman year. ....	<u>**4</u>
Total natural science hours .....	46

### Nursing Courses from CSTCC

NS 119. Wellness and Adaptation.....	9
NS 128. Alterations in Health I.....	8
NS 238. Alterations in Health II.....	8
NS 249. Alterations in Health III .....	9
Total nursing hours.....	34

Total upper division elective hours.....	<u>5</u>
Total degree hours .....	134
(A minimum of 126 hours is required)	

*\*\*need to be completed before taking nursing courses at CSTCC*

## Dual Degree Program with Vanderbilt University

Covenant participates in a dual-degree program leading to a Master of Nursing Science at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Students attend Covenant for three years and apply to Vanderbilt’s graduate school during their junior year. After successfully completing the first two semesters at Vanderbilt, the student would graduate from Covenant with a baccalaureate degree in natural science. After another full year and one term at Vanderbilt, the student would graduate with a master’s degree with a specialty in adult health care, primary care, psychiatric-mental health, perinatal nursing, neonatal nursing, parent, child and adolescent, or nursing administration. Further general information on the Vanderbilt MSN programs can be found at <http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/index.html> and more specific information about the dual degree partnership programs can be found at <http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/snryria.html>.

Important notes: 1) Although Covenant students have been successful in the Vanderbilt MSN admissions process, admission is competitive and is not guaranteed by simply completing Covenant’s program requirements. 2) Because of the rigorous nature of this program, a minimum combined SAT score of 1100 (sum of the critical reading and math section scores), or composite ACT score of 24 is normally required for those entering the program. Interested students with lower test scores should consult the Biology Department chair before registering for courses required in the program. 3) In order to finish the Covenant portion of the

dual degree requirements in 3 years, students in the program may need to take the required Microbiology course and a social science elective course during a summer term before enrolling at Vanderbilt. Suitable courses are widely available at community colleges may be available during Covenant’s May term. Before taking a summer course, students should get the course approved for transfer (See Professor Wenger).

## Requirements for BA/MSN Dual Degree Program

BIB 111. Old Testament Introduction .....	3
BIB 142. New Testament Introduction.....	3
BIB 277-278. Christian Doctrine I, II.....	6
BIO 111-112. General Biology I, II .....	8
BIO 220-221. Human Anatomy and Physiology I, II.....	8
BIO 219. Nutrition .....	3
BIO 242. Cellular and Molecular Biology .....	4
BIO 340. Microbiology .....	4
BIO 490. Biology Seminar ‘S’ .....	1
BIO 492. Senior Integration Project .....	2
CHE 103-104. Introductory Chemistry I, II .....	8
COR 100. The Christian Mind .....	2
COR 225-226. Cultural Heritage of the West I, II.....	6
COR 325. Global Trends for the 21st Century .....	3
COR 337. Intercultural Experience .....	1
COR 340. Christ and Culture Seminar .....	1
ENG 111. English Composition .....	3
ENG 114. Introduction to Literature .....	3
HIS 325. Twentieth Century World History.....	3
PE 151. Concepts in Physical Education.....	2
PE 152. Personal Aerobics and General Fitness.....	1
PSY 100. General Psychology.....	4
PSY 303. Developmental Psychology.....	4
STA 251. Elementary Statistical Methods.....	4
Fine Arts Distribution Requirement .....	3
Foreign Language I, II.....	8
Social Science Electives .....	<u>5</u>
Total hours before transferring .....	103