

Policy Title	General Education Requirements
Policy Number:	ACA 3.03
Department:	BSMCON
Functional Area:	Academic Affairs
Contributing Department	
Approved by:	RHEI Leadership Team
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Manual	To be entered by Compliance360 System administrators or N/A if not in C360
Section	ACA 3

I. Mission, Vision and Values

This policy reflects our commitment to human dignity, integrity, compassion, stewardship, and service by guiding decisions and actions that uphold respect for all individuals and promote excellence in our work.

This policy aligns with our mission of extending the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and providing good help to those in need, especially the poor, dying, and underserved by ensuring that our practices support ethical, effective, and accountable service across all areas of the organization.

II. Policy

General Education Requirements

III. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for general education requirements at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) Bon Secours Mercy Health and the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON), a department operated and controlled by the Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center,

IV. Scope

This policy applies to all BSMCON students of Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) as defined.

V. Policy Details

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

These courses are required to provide the student with a solid foundation in liberal education. Questions regarding the transferability of general education courses should be addressed with the Office of the Registrar. Students are required to satisfactorily complete all general education courses with a “C” or better as defined in the policy College Grading System (ADM 2.02).

BSN Program Requirements

Students admitted to the Pre-licensure BSN, or the Post-licensure RN-BSN program must complete the general education course requirements as described in the following section.

Students without a previous bachelor’s degree

Students must complete 52 general education credits as outlined by the Cluster Model below. Any exceptions to this are at the discretion of the Program Chair and Dean of Academic Affairs. Of the 52 general education credits, 6 credits are required upper-level general education credits from BSMCON.

Students with a bachelor’s degree

Students admitted with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in another discipline will be considered to have met all of the general education requirements with the exception of the following courses. The specific foundational courses below are required to support the nursing curriculum.

- Developmental Psychology (3 credits)
- Microbiology (3-4 credits)
- Anatomy & Physiology (6-8 credits)
- College Math (3 credits) – *Statistics Recommended*
- Upper level BSMCON general education courses (6 credits)

BSMCON General Education Cluster Model

Cluster 1: Social Consciousness (minimum of 6 credits)

The development of social consciousness is crucial to producing well-informed and capable citizens who can participate productively in society, with openness and awareness of others outside one’s own work, with an understanding of the past in order to build a fair, opportune, and sustainable future, and with appreciation of interconnections and how local actions affect the global environment.

Elective coursework in the social consciousness category can include History, Religion, Business, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Women’s Studies, Anthropology, Public Policy. The following courses are required in this cluster:

- Developmental Psychology

Cluster 2: Creative Aesthetic (minimum of 3 credits)

The development of a creative aesthetic includes the ability to be flexible and take intellectual risks. The intrinsic value of creativity promotes skills such as problem solving, perseverance, and dedication. The ability to work with others and to both generously consider and critically examine the thoughts, goals, and values of others as well as one’s own are fundamental to the creative aesthetic.

Elective coursework in the creative aesthetic cluster can include: Fine Arts, Graphic Arts, Dance, Photography, Music, Philosophy, Ethics, Literature, Classics, Creative Writing.

Cluster 3: Analytical Competencies (minimum of 15 credits)

The analytical competencies foster the student's capacity for critical thinking, productive and open dialogue, and the ability to proactively solve problems and embrace the challenges of the world. These general education courses are fundamental to the foundation of the health sciences curriculum.

Elective coursework in the analytical competencies cluster can include: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Lab Science, Natural Science, Ecology, Nutrition, Math. The following courses are required in this cluster:

- Microbiology
 - Anatomy & Physiology I
 - Anatomy & Physiology II
- College Math (3 credits) – *Statistics Recommended*

Cluster 4: Connectedness (minimum of 9 credits)

The development of connectedness enables students to connect and integrate knowledge among the liberal arts and health sciences, in the belief that together the arts and sciences provide comprehensive insight into our world and human condition.

Elective coursework in the connectedness cluster can include: Communication, Public Speaking, Foreign Language, Medical Terminology, Computer literacy. The following courses are required in this cluster:

- English I
- English II

Cluster 5: Elective (no minimum)

A broad-spectrum of elective coursework expands liberal education. This provides a venue for the student to explore their intellectual curiosity and foster their ability to apply an array of theories and concepts which encourage the examination of multiple perspectives and ways of thinking.

Elective coursework in this cluster can include a wide variety of course credit with the following limitations:

- Maximum of 3 credits of physical education coursework can be applied to the degree
- Student orientation courses will not transfer

VI. Definitions

None

VII. Attachments

N/A

VIII. Related Policies and Procedures

ACA 3.06 College Grading System
ACA 2.01 Nursing Admission

IX. Regulatory Notices

Nothing in this policy creates a contractual relationship between Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON), a department operated and controlled by Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, LLC, and any party. BSMCON, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to amend, terminate or discontinue this policy at any time, with or without advance notice.

X. Version Control

Version	Effective Date	Next Review Date	Description	Supersedes, if applicable	Prepared By
1.0	5/11/2020	N/A	Revisions and new template		CDDAA
2.0	1/28/2022	N/A	Revisions	1.0	CDDAA
3.0	2/19/2025	2/19/2028	New Template & Minor revisions	2.0	CDDAA
1	2/19/2025	2/19/2028	Version changed – BSMH Template Adopted	2.0	CDDAA

This policy/procedure/guideline is not intended to establish a standard of clinical or non-clinical care or practice. Rather, this policy/procedure/guideline creates a general tool to help guide decision-making with the understanding that different action(s) may be necessary in response to the totality of the circumstances presented.

Sites revised 05/06/2025- Bon Secours Mercy Health adopts the above policy, procedure, policy & procedure, guideline, manual / reference guide / instructions, or principle / standard / guidance document for all Bon Secours Mercy Health entities including, but not limited to, facilities doing business as Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical Center, St. Vincent – St. Charles Hospital, St. Vincent – St. Anne Hospital, Mercy Health – Perrysburg Medical Center, Mercy Health – Tiffin Hospital, Mercy Health – Willard Hospital, Mercy Health – Defiance Hospital, Mercy Health Allen Hospital LLC, Mercy Health - Lorain Hospital, Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, Mercy Health St. Joseph Warren Hospital, Mercy Health - St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital, Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical Center, Mercy Health – Springfield Regional Medical Center, Mercy Health - Urbana Hospital, Mercy Health - Anderson Hospital, Mercy Health - Clermont Hospital, Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital, Mercy Health - West Hospital, The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health, Mercy Health – Kings Mills Hospital, LLC, Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital LLC, Mercy Health – Marcum and Wallace Hospital, Chesapeake Hospital Corporation DBA Rappahannock General, Maryview Hospital, Bon Secours Richmond Community, Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, Bon Secours – St. Mary's Hospital, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital, Bon Secours - Southside Medical Center, Bon Secours Mercy Health Franklin, LLC, Southern Virginia Medical Center, and Bon Secours Harbour View Medical Center. This also may apply to Bon Secours Mercy Health Medical Group LLC and its medical group affiliates.