

NURSING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

A major map is an active guide that helps students make intentional decisions throughout college. Students identify their stage (first year, middle, or final year) and focus on recommended actions for that period. Each semester, they select key academic, career, and involvement activities, track their progress, and discuss it with advisors or faculty. Over time, the map helps them stay on track, adjust goals as needed, and graduate with a degree and career-ready experience.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Patient-centered care across the lifespan
- Clinical judgement and decision making
- Quality and patient safety
- Communication and interprofessional collaboration

CAREER READINESS

- Hands-on clinical experiences in diverse healthcare settings
- High-fidelity simulation and skills laboratory experiences
- Leadership, service, and professional engagement opportunities

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Critical Care Nursing
- Pediatrics
- Women's Health
- Community and public health nursing
- Nursing leadership and management

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"The prestigious nursing program at West Liberty University immensely prepared me for the style, atmosphere, severity, and intensity of the NCLEX. Immediately upon graduation and passing of my boards, I started my career locally in Wheeling. I can wholeheartedly say that I have been prepared for life as a newly graduated nurse."

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION...

- Advanced practice nursing
- Nursing education
- Nursing leadership/administration
- Nurse Anesthetist

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured, student-centered approach that ensures every student graduates with not only a degree, but also meaningful experiences, career-ready skills, and a clear post-graduation plan.

Department of Nursing

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Explore the diverse roles, specialties and career opportunities available in nursing - Identify personal strengths, value, and interests that support a career in nursing - Begin developing your professional identity as a future nurse - Build relationships with nursing faculty, advisors, peers, and mentors	- Reflect on clinical and simulation experiences to identify personal strengths and areas for growth - Explore nursing specialties and practice settings through diverse clinical experiences - Seek and incorporate feedback from faculty, clinical instructors, and healthcare professionals - Strengthen communication, teamwork, adaptability, and confidence in the clinical environment - Identify areas of nursing practice that align with your interests, strengths, and career goals - Continue developing your professional identity, resilience, and accountability as a future nurse	- Reflect on your growth, strengths, and professional identity as you prepare to enter nursing practice - Identify preferred nursing specialties, practice environments, and career opportunities - Use feedback from advanced clinical experiences to establish goals for continued professional development - Develop confidence in your ability to communicate, collaborate, advocate, and lead as a professional nurse - Establish short- and long-term professional goals, including employment, certification, leadership, and graduate education - Prepare for the transition from student nurse to accountable professional registered nurse	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Make an appointment with your academic advisor - Visit faculty during office hours - Attend 5-12:15 series - Create a resume and LinkedIn profile - Attend a professional network session - Attend the Org. Fair - Attend an event during Topperfest
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Explore nursing roles and healthcare settings through career and professional development opportunities - Participate in service-learning, volunteer, and community engagement experiences - Develop foundational communication, teamwork, and professionalism skills - Begin building a professional resume and portfolio of academic, service, and leadership experiences - Attend nursing and healthcare-related events, workshops, or guest speaker presentations - Connect classroom learning with healthcare and community experiences	- Apply nursing knowledge and clinical judgement during supervised clinical experiences - Gain experience caring for diverse patient populations across a variety of healthcare settings - Strengthen clinical skills and decision-making through simulation and skills laboratory experiences - Participate in interpersonal learning and collaborate with members of the healthcare team - Connect evidence, classroom learning, and clinical experiences to provide safe, patient-centered care - Begin identifying areas of clinical interest and potential career pathways	- Apply advanced clinical judgement during complex and immersive clinical learning experiences - Complete a senior clinical immersion/capstone experience in an area of professional interest - Demonstrate increasing independence, leadership, prioritization, delegation, and care coordination - Participate in ACLS certification and other professional preparation opportunities - Develop a professional resume and prepare for interviews and the nursing job search - Prepare for the NCLEX-RN® and transition into professional nursing practice	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Build relationships with nursing faculty, advisors, peers, and other members of the university community - Become involved in the Student Nurses Association (SNA) and other campus organizations - Participate in campus, community service, and volunteer activities - Attend nursing events and activities to connect with students and faculty in the Nursing Program - Develop healthy strategies for managing academic demands, stress, and personal wellbeing - Begin building a supportive network of peers, mentors, and healthcare professionals	- Take an active role in SNA, nursing activities, service projects, and professional development opportunities - Build collaborative relationships with peers, faculty, clinical instructors, patients, families, and healthcare professionals - Practice teamwork, communication, advocacy, and emerging leadership skills in clinical and academic settings - Participate in community engagement and service activities that promote health and wellbeing - Explore nursing professional organizations and opportunities for professional involvement - Maintain strategies that support resilience and success during clinical experiences	- Pursue leadership roles within SNA, nursing activities, service initiatives, or other campus organizations - Mentor and support students who are earlier in their nursing education - Strengthen professional relationships with faculty, clinical partners, alumni, and potential employers - Participate in professional networking, career development, and nursing organization activities - Demonstrate leadership, advocacy, professionalism, and accountability within academic and clinical settings - Develop a plan for continued professional engagement, lifelong learning, leadership, and personal wellbeing	

