

ACADEMIC POLICY/PROPOSAL ROUTING FORM –EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

NAME OF POLICY/ PROPOSAL:

RN-BSN Bridge Request to APCC to remove Institutional Requirements for the BSN degree

In order to track the approval of academic policy curriculum changes, this form must be signed by each governing body in the approval process. Copies of appropriate documentation should be attached to the form with each submission and should be retained at each level in order to determine which governing body made revisions to the policy or proposal.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (APCC)

Initiated and Submitted to APCC

Linda Upchurch  
Signature

11/21/2019  
Date

Dean Approval:

[Signature]  
Signature

11/22/2019  
Date

APCC Action: Approved  Denied  Returned  Tabled

Sandra Sherman  
Signature of Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chair

12-3-2019  
Date

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

APCC Chair submits to Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Action:

Approved  Denied  Returned  Tabled

[Signature]  
Signature of Faculty Senate President

1/8/2020  
Date

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Senate President sends to EGSC President and to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Note: Revisions to EGSC Statutes require approval of President's Cabinet and must be submitted to Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel for routing to President's Cabinet and routing to President. Please indicate "EGSC Statutes revision" on this form.

President's (or designee's) Action: Approved  Denied  Returned  Tabled

[Signature]  
Signature  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

01/08/2020  
Date

Distribution By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
President retains original ACADEMIC POLICY/PROPOSAL ROUTING FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

President's Office Distributes Copies To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Senate—President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Policies & Curriculum Committee—Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# East Georgia State College

THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Department of Nursing, School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
131 College Circle  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401-2699  
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## MEMO:

**To:** Dr. Sandra Sharman, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services

**From:** Dr. Linda Upchurch, Director of Nursing, Department of Nursing

**Date:** November 21, 2019

**Subject:** Removal of Institutional Requirements for RN-BSN Bridge Program

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### Explanation of the need for the recommended change:

The recent review of SACSCOC standards regarding granting of baccalaureate degrees brings about a concern for the EGSC RN-BSN Bridge Program (henceforth *Program*). According to SACSCOC Standard 9.4, "At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for an undergraduate degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree." The Program consists of 120 hours; thirty of those hours are completed in the Program's major nursing courses. On face value, 30 hours out of 120 is 25% and as such the Program meets the 25% standard. However, EGSC requires that students take another 4 hours as part of the "Institutional Requirement." This increases the credit hour requirement for the BSN degree to 124 hours. If a student transfers into the Program needing only the 30 hours of nursing credit, then the 25% requirement is not met; the percentage goes down to 24.19%. The Program previously developed a PLA policy to meet the Institutional Requirements for the Health and First Aid courses but was unable to create an equivalent course for the Physical Education requirement. However, even if there was a PLA for that course, the standard does not allow a program to apply PLA credit to the 25% rule. So, it becomes necessary to have the Institutional Requirements removed from the Program's curriculum.

As a reminder, the Program "follows the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model, which accommodates registered nurse students who have completed associate degree or diploma nursing programs and are licensed to practice as a registered nurse. This program option builds on the knowledge and skills of the practicing nurse following completion of the core curriculum of a regional accredited college or university (60 hours). As presented in the model procedures, the registered nurse articulating to the baccalaureate level will be awarded a minimum of one year of nursing course credits and these credits will be held in escrow until the baccalaureate candidate has completed 6.67 semester hours of nursing credit. Fourteen of the other colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia (USG) offer an RN-BSN Bridge Program according to this model. After that milestone, the additional nursing credits taken for the associate degree in nursing will be transferred into the institution" (see Appendix A – Georgia

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RN-BSN Articulation Model; see Appendix B – Program curriculum in relation to the USG Standard 2.7.1).

Finally, a review of the USG Policy 2.3.1 states “A baccalaureate degree must contain 120 semester hours (exclusive of physical education activity/basic health or orientation course hours that the institution may require).” As stated, the college/university *may* add those courses to the requirement for the degree, but it is *not required*. The program was approved for 120 hours by the USG and SACSCOC when it was developed. The Program thus requests that EGSC remove the Institutional Requirement courses from the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree curriculum, keeping it at 120 hours to align with the USG and SACSCOC standard. In support of this, a review of other RN-BSN Bridge Programs which follow the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model indicates that they also do not require these courses in order to obtain the BSN degree.

Thank you for your support of the RN-BSN Bridge Program.

Linda Upchurch, DNP, ANP-BC

Director of Nursing

RN-BSN Bridge Program

East Georgia State College

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use of the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model is "designed to attain and maintain integrity and program quality."\*\*.

Registered nurse articulating to the baccalaureate program is awarded a minimum of one year of nursing credits (minimum of 25 semester/42 quarter hours). Credits will be held in escrow until the baccalaureate program is completed. Credits held in escrow will then be applied to the baccalaureate program. Credits held in escrow will then be applied to the baccalaureate program. Credits held in escrow will then be applied to the baccalaureate program.

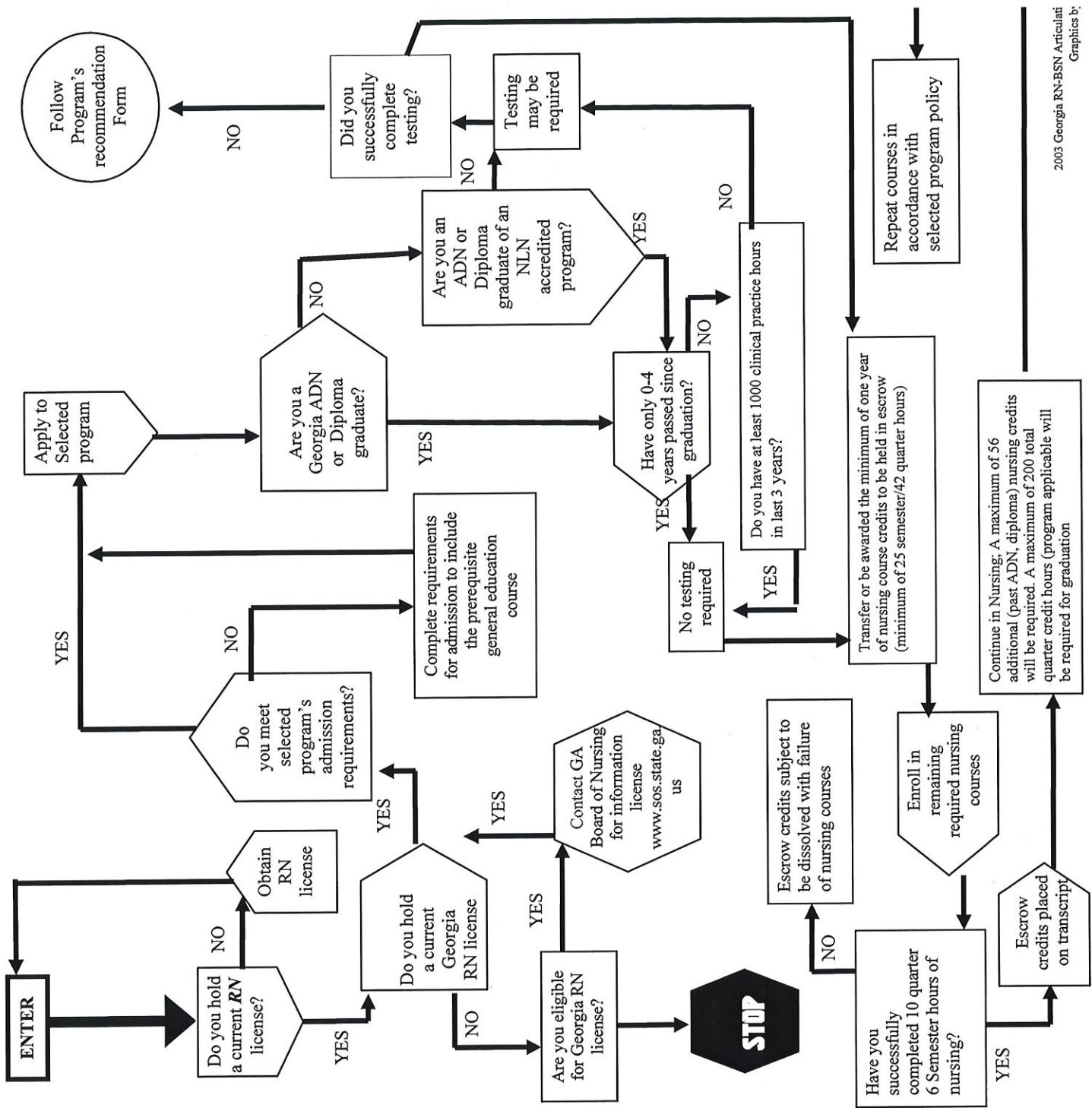
The Articulation Model does not award nursing credits. Thus, the transfer of non-nursing credits will be according to the policy of the receiving institution.

Students who are required to test, according to the Articulation Model, must meet the testing requirements established by the receiving institution. The testing requirements are explained below and is depicted in the flowchart.

**Students into a participating program the registered nurse must:**  
 - meet the program's admission requirements.  
 - meet the program's general education entry requirements if applicable.  
 - hold a current and valid license to practice as a registered nurse within the United States and be eligible for licensure (The Georgia Board of Nursing requires a Georgia license for any RN to BSN student in a clinical nursing course).

**Students enrolling through a participating program the program will:**  
 - be required to complete **no more than 37 semester additional hours** of nursing.  
 - be required to have **no more than 200 total quarter (semester) hours** (program applicable) for the baccalaureate degree.

Georgia Board of Nursing, 2002



**ADN & Diploma Graduates of Nursing Programs in Georgia**

- After graduation No testing required/no clinical practice required
- After graduation with 1000 clinical practice previous 3 years No testing required
- After graduation with <1000 clinical practice previous 3 years Must be tested

**ADN & Diploma Graduates of Non-NLAC- Accredited Programs Outside Georgia**

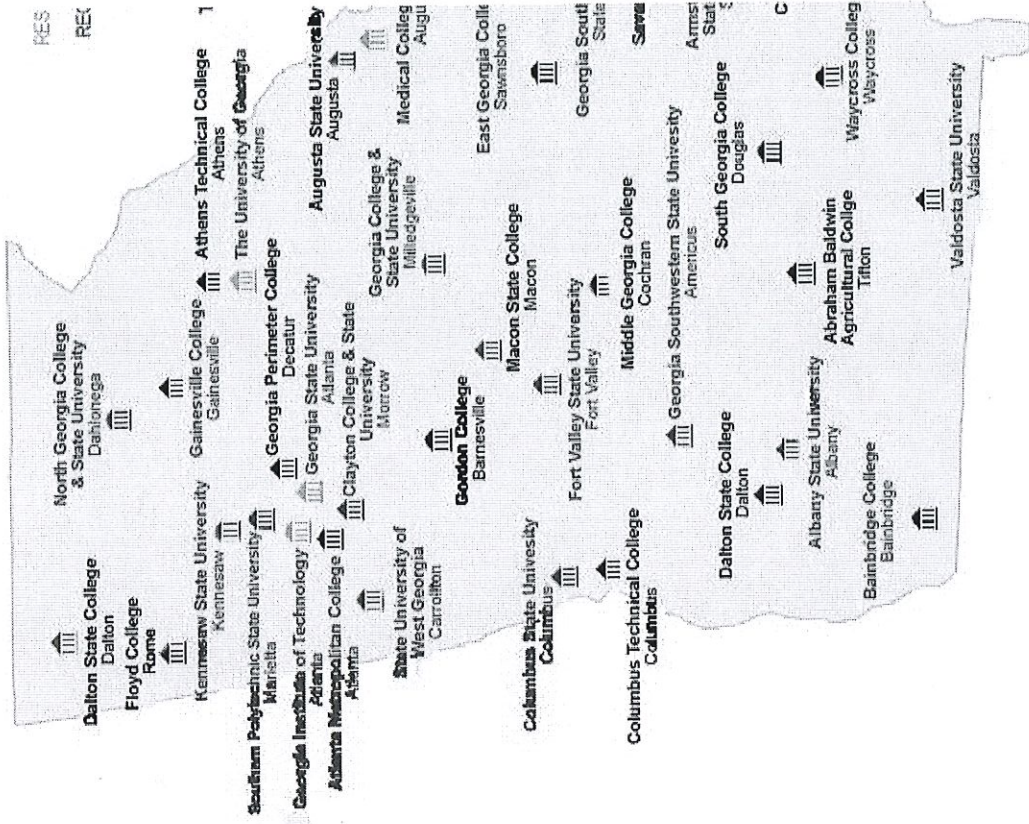
Must be required for all graduates of these programs. Includes programs outside the USA.

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**Participating Institutions**

In a collaborative effort of faculty of the A.D.N. and BSN nursing programs in Georgia and the Board of Nursing, this statewide RN-BSN Articulation Model has been formulated to facilitate the mobility of registered nurses who elect to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. The model is a cooperative and voluntary arrangement between academic institutions. Each nursing institution participating operates as an integral part of its parent institution, thereby affirming the autonomy of each individual program.

- Albany State University
- Armstrong Atlantic State University
- Augusta State University
- Columbus State University
- Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University
- Georgia College and State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia Southwestern State University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- LaGrange College
- Medical College of Georgia
- North Georgia College & State University
- Piedmont College
- State University of West Georgia
- Thomas University
- Valdosta State University



❖ Red denotes AD Progr.  
❖ Blue denotes BSN Progr.

### 2.7.1 Program Length

The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. If an institution uses a unit other than semester credit hours, it provides an explanation for the equivalency. The institution also provides a justification for all degrees that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.

#### Judgment

Compliant    Non-Compliant    Not Applicable

#### Narrative

The USG Board of Regents (BOR) requires a minimum of 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree (See *USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.3.1 Majors and Minors* in Sources below). The EGSC RN-BSN Bridge Nursing Program adheres to this policy and was approved by the USG Board of Regents (BOR) at the Board's meeting in May 2016. [See *USG BOR Meeting Minutes 5-10-2016 (Page 6)* in Sources below.] The program requires a total of 120 credit hours. These 120 credit hours consist of:

- 60 core curriculum credit requirement hours
- 30 credit hours of escrowed associate degree nursing course credits (credits for nursing classes taken during the student's previous associates degree in nursing program and transferred into EGSC from an accredited institution; students that enter the program have completed the required courses to obtain an associate degree in nursing at a regionally accredited institution.)
- 30 upper division nursing credit hours.
- Total = 120 credit hours

Because the associate degree programs in nursing do not typically include 60 semester hours of core curriculum courses, as required by the University System of Georgia for general education (see *BOR Academic and Student Affairs Handbook 2.4 Core Curriculum* in Sources below), the student is required to complete these courses prior to completion of the RN-BSN Bridge Program. However, the student may petition for entry into the RN-BSN Nursing Program prior to completing all 60 semester core requirement hours. The RN-BSN Bridge Nursing Program faculty selected the additional required liberal education courses to meet the requirements of the USG BOR policy and to serve as a groundwork for the upper level nursing courses in the nursing program. The core courses provide a foundation for the development of critical thinking at a higher level while fostering resourcefulness, cultural appreciation, knowledge of the world, the respect for the dignity of others and a scientific foundation for evidence based clinical judgement.

The EGSC RN-BSN Bridge Nursing Program follows the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model, which accommodates registered nurse students who have completed associate degree or diploma nursing programs and are licensed to practice as a registered nurse. This program

option builds on the knowledge and skills of the practicing nurse following completion of the core curriculum of a regional accredited college or university (60 hours). As presented in the model procedures, the registered nurse articulating to the baccalaureate level will be awarded a minimum of one year of nursing course credits and these credits will be held in escrow until the baccalaureate candidate has completed 6.67 semester hours of nursing credit. Fourteen of the other colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia (USG) offer an RN-BSN Bridge Program according to this model. After that milestone, the additional nursing credits taken for the associate degree in nursing will be transferred into the institution.

For the EGSC RN-BSN Bridge Program, "escrowed" credits refer to the credits from the lower level associate degree nursing courses that are kept in the custody of the EGSC registrar's office until the Director of Nursing notifies the EGSC registrar that the RN-BSN Bridge Program student enrolled in the first semester of the program has met the specific condition of making a grade of "C" or better on the nursing two courses (NURS 3101 and NURS 3102) in the first semester of the program. The student would have successfully achieved 7.0 semester credit hours in the first semester of the nursing program. (See the *Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model-2003* and *USG BOR Policy Manual 3.3.1 Core Curriculum* in Sources below.)

Core curriculum course requirements may be satisfied at other regional accredited institutions or at EGSC. To facilitate transfer of appropriate course credits between Georgia's public institutions, the USG and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) have entered into a transfer articulation agreement, identifying a set of general education courses their units will accept as transfer credit hours. [See *Complete College Georgia Plan 2012 (Page 27)*, *USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.17 Acceptance of Coursework from TCSG Colleges* and *USG - TCSG General Education Course Transfer Chart* in Sources below.]

EGSC's core curriculum adheres to the core curriculum requirements of the University System of Georgia (USG) as expressed in *USG Academic and Student Affairs Handbook 2.4 Core Curriculum* in Sources below and has been approved by the General Education Council. Each course included in the core curriculum has also been approved by the appropriate Regents Advisory Committee for the discipline. The core curriculum was developed by EGSC faculty and approved through internal governance committees. The core curriculum is divided into Areas A through E. In addition, Area F includes specific courses appropriate to the major. Area F is under the purview of each academic discipline's Regents Advisory Committee. In this case, it includes courses nursing students are expected to complete in preparation for the upper division nursing courses offered to junior and senior students. (See *USG BOR Nursing Area F* in Sources below.) Table 1 provides a detailed list of Areas A-E core curriculum courses. Table 2 lists the Area F courses for nursing students.

The total credit hour RN-BSN Bridge baccalaureate program curriculum is outlined in Tables 1, 2 and 3 below.

**Table 1: Core Curriculum Course with Credit Hours**

<b>Area A 1 Communication Skills</b>	<b>6 hours</b>
ENGL 1101 Composition I	3 hrs
ENGL 1102 Composition II	3 hrs
<b>Area A2 Quantitative Skills (Choose one)</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
MATH 1111 College Algebra	3 hrs
MATH 1113 Pre-Calculus	3 hrs

<b>Area B Institutional Options</b>	<b>4 hours</b>
<b>Choose one course:</b>	3 hours
COMM 1110 Public Speaking	3 hrs
COMM 1010 Intercultural Communication	3 hrs
CATS 1101 Critical and Academic Thinking for Success	1 hour

<b>Area C Humanities/Fine Arts</b>	<b>6 hours</b>
<b>Choose one:</b>	
ENGL 2111/2112 World Literature I, II	each 3 hrs
<b>Choose one Art, English Literature, Music, Theatre, or Foreign Language Elective</b>	each 3 hrs

<b>Area D Science, Mathematics and Technology</b>	<b>11 hours</b>
MATH 1121 Introduction to Statistics (Required)	3 hours
<b>Choose a Sequence:</b>	8 hours
BIOL 1103/1104 Introductory Biology I, II	each 4 hrs
BIOL 1107/1108 Principles of Biology I, II	each 4 hrs
CHEM 1211/1212 Principles of Chemistry I, II	each 4 hrs

<b>Area E Social Science</b>	<b>12 hours</b>
POLS 1101 American Government (Required)	3 hours
<b>One of the following courses is required:</b>	3 hours
HIST 2111 U.S. History to 1865	3 hrs
HIST 2112 U.S. History since 1865	3 hrs
<b>Choose two Electives:</b>	6 hours
ECON 2105 Principles of Macroeconomics	3 hrs
ECON 2106 Principles of Microeconomics	3 hrs
HIST 1111/1112 Western Civilization to/since 1648	each 3 hrs
HIST 2111/2112 U.S. History to/since 1865	each 3 hrs
HIST 2200 Black History	3 hrs
HIST 2300 History of Science	3 hrs
POLS 2301 Comparative Politics	3 hrs
POLS 2401 Global Issues	3 hrs
PSYC 1101 General Psychology	3 hrs
SOCI 1101 Introduction to Sociology	3 hrs

**Table 2: Area F Program of Study**

<b>Area F - Nursing</b>	<b>18 hours</b>
<b>Required:</b>	<b>12 hours</b>
BIOL 2511 Anatomy and Physiology I	4 hrs
BIOL 2512 Anatomy and Physiology II	4 hrs
BIOL 2611 Microbiology	4 hrs
<b>Additional courses:</b>	<b>6 hours</b>
MATH 1121 Statistics (Required if not in Area D)	3 hrs
PSYC 2103 Human Growth and Development	3 hrs















Sociology or Psychology Elective	3 hrs
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Presented below in Table 3 are the upper division nursing courses. Descriptions of the nursing courses are presented in the *EGSC Catalog 2017-18 (Page 82)* in Sources below. As explained in the *EGSC Catalog 2017-18 (Page 69)* in Sources below, in an example of (3-2-4), the first number listed is the number of lecture hours, the second number is generally laboratory hours, and the third number is credit hours. Laboratory hours are converted to credit hours at a 2:1 ratio. For example, NURS 3102 laboratory hours are converted to credit hours based on the 2:1 ratio, so that the combination of 3 lecture hours and 2 laboratory hours results in 4 credit hours. For preceptor clinical experiences, however, the conversion ratio to credit hours is 3:1. Therefore, the 12 hours of preceptor clinical experience in the NURS 4117 course converts to 4 credit hours. When combined with three lecture hours, the 12 hours of preceptor clinical experiences result in 7 credit hours.

**Table 3: EGSC Upper Division Nursing Courses**

Required Nursing Courses for the RN-BSN Bridge Program:		30 Credit hours
NURS 3101	Transition into Professional Nursing	(3-0-3)
NURS 3102	Health Assessment	(3-2-4)
NURS 3103	Nursing Research	(3-0-3)
NURS 3104	Health Promotions in Communities	(3-6-5)
NURS 4115	Professional Nurse as Leader/Designer/Manager/Coordinator	(3-6-5)
NURS 4116	Ethics in Nursing	(3-0-3)
NURS 4117	Current Trends, Issues, Interventions: Implementation of Evidenced-Based Practice in Nursing	(3-12-7)

## Sources

-  Complete College Georgia Plan 2012 (Page 27)
-  EGSC Catalog 2017-2018 (Page 69)
-  EGSC Catalog 2017-2018 (Page 82)
-  Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model-2003
-  USG - TCSG General Education Course Transfer Chart
-  USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.17 Acceptance of Coursework from TCSG Colleges
-  USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.3.1 Majors and Minors
-  USG Academic & Student Affairs Handbook 2.4 Core Curriculum
-  USG BOR Meeting Minutes 5-10-2016
-  USG BOR Meeting Minutes 5-10-2016 (Page 6)
-  USG BOR Nursing Area F
-  USG BOR Policy Manual 3.3.1 Core Curriculum