Program Description:
Montana Tech’s Online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Completion Program is designed to build upon the knowledge of the Associate of Science (ASN) Registered Nurse and afford them the opportunity to continue their education at a professional level. All nursing courses in the program are offered in a distant learning/online format. The program has clinical requirements with selected courses in the program. Clinical hours are only offered in Montana; no out-of-state clinical is available.

Program Purpose:
To build upon the Registered Nurse’s prior knowledge and prepare graduates to practice theory and research based nursing interventions in a complex healthcare system. The graduates will also have a foundation for graduate level education at the masters’ and doctoral levels.

This fact sheet outlines the most pertinent requirements of the Nursing Program, but is not inclusive of all requirements of the program.

Students must meet Nursing Department requirements to be eligible for admission to the BSN Completion Program. Acceptance in the BSN program is based on:

1. Admission to Montana Tech.
2. Submission of official transcripts from all colleges/universities to Enrollment Services for evaluation.
3. Evidence of a current unencumbered Montana license as a Registered Nurse (RN) and/or proof of scheduled NCLEX exam date (for December ASN graduates).
4. Registration for the BSN courses will follow the Montana Tech’s Pre-registration schedule. A formal application to the BSN program is required.

Prerequisite General Education Courses for the BSN degree include:

- Stat 131 (Introduction to Biostatistics)
- Humanities Elective
- PHL 325 (Professional Ethics)
- Write 322 (Advanced Business Writing)

These courses will be accepted for 15 years, unless a previous Bachelor’s degree has been awarded.

Further Nursing Department requirements for acceptance into the BSN Completion Program include:

- Proof of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination or immunity
- Evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination (series of three shots) or seroimmunity (demonstrated with a positive titer)
- Current evidence of freedom from tuberculosis (TB skin test or chest x-ray) annually, or add annual Quantiferon Gold blood test to the TB health requirement.
- CPR— evidence of current completion of an approved CPR course, must have adult and infant (American Heart Association Health Care Provider or American Red Cross Professional Rescuer)
- Current unencumbered Montana RN license.

Clinical Requirements:
Clinical practice is a mandatory part of Montana Tech of the University of Montana Nursing Programs. To ensure the safety and well-being of all patients, many employing institutions in health care have increasingly stringent requirements such as background checks, immunizations, drug screening, and CPR as conditions for providing patient care by students. **Clinical hours need to be completed during the week- Monday-Friday 8:00 am--5:00 pm.**

Background check
It is required that all students within the nursing program **complete an annual background check through Sentrylink by January 1st for spring admission and August 1st for fall admission to the program.** The involved clinical affiliate receives and reviews the background check to determine if each student may complete clinical hours within the agency. Since clinical practice in actual (not simulated) health care settings is a mandatory component of Montana Tech’s nursing curriculum, students who are denied access to a clinical affiliate are generally unable to meet course and curriculum objectives and therefore are unable to progress through the program.

Immunization:
If a student does not wish to be immunized due to a religious belief, they must provide clinical facility with a written explanation, including the specific religion that they practice, the reason(s) that the religion does not permit immunizations, and supporting documents that would establish their membership in an established religion which holds a bona fide religious belief opposing immunization. The clinical facility will evaluate any such request upon receipt of the above mentioned information.

Latex Sensitivity:
Latex sensitivity is a concern in the laboratories and clinical settings. Montana Tech is unable to provide a latex-free environment. Although nitrile gloves are provided, the student may still be exposed to latex from lab specimens, equipment and models. It is important that the student fully understand the risks of repeated latex exposure. If you have questions or concerns about exposure to latex, you should contact the Nursing Department. (406) 496-4390.

To progress through the program, applicants should have:

- Adequate visual acuity, with or without corrective lenses, to read fine print
- Adequate hearing ability, with or without auditory aids, to be able to hear heart, lung, bowel sounds, etc. and understand a normal speaking voice
- Adequate physical ability to perform basic client/patient care
- Sufficient command of the English language to effectively communicate (verbally and in written form) with clients/patients, families, and other healthcare professionals.
- Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in class are encouraged to contact a Montana Tech Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) at either 496-4429 (North Campus) or 496-3730 (Highland College).

Fall 2017
Learning System Requirements (Moodle):

- Microsoft Word Compatibility
- Tutorials and orientation available for students learning, listed in Moodle under Student 101
- Moodle supports the use of the following major web browsers:
  - Internet Explorer (v7 or higher)
  - Mozilla Firefox (works best with Moodle, free download)
  - Safari (v3 or higher)
  - Chrome (v4 or higher)

End-users may also want to enable Java Script and download Flash for proper display of instructor-created content. Depending on the type of content an instructor uses, a user may need to download a particular type of media player.

A grade of "C+” or higher is required for all BSN nursing courses AND a "C−” or higher is required for all non-nursing courses within the Nursing Program curriculum. If a student receives a grade lower than a "C−” in the same nursing course twice or accumulates two grades of “W”, that student must wait one year before being eligible for readmission. BSN Completion students must complete the program within three (3) years of being admitted. BSN Completion Program students must provide their own transportation to and from clinical sites and work and transportation hours will not be considered clinical time.

Many Nursing Department standards and requirements (such as behavioral standards, grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and strict than general Montana Tech requirements.

Completion of a degree in nursing is costly. In addition to tuition and fees, nursing students should be aware that required nursing textbooks/reference materials are expensive and that many courses require several texts. The student should also plan for a number of out-of-pocket expenses related to clinical supplies and course/program requirements. Once accepted into the nursing program, BSN students are assessed a $600.00 program fee each semester. This includes students who are only taking general education courses in the BSN curriculum; also a distance learning fee of $30.00 per credit per courses.

To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Satisfactory classroom academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program. The student must continually adhere to the Nursing Department’s Code of Conduct and must be able to adhere to clinical agency policies.

Once a student is admitted into the nursing program, s/he will be provided with a copy of the Montana Tech Nursing Student Handbook. This document outlines specific Nursing Department policies and procedures which the student is required to adhere to while completing nursing program requirements at Montana Tech. An agreement to adhere to the Nursing Student Handbook is required to be signed yearly (or when changes occur). All Nursing Department announcements and essential communication are communicated via e-mail (MT Tech account).

It is the student’s responsibility to obtain written documentation from the MT Tech Office of Enrollment Services regarding approval of transfer and/or course substitutions. Students must have PRIOR written approval from the Office of Enrollment Services that a course taken at another campus is equivalent to a MT Tech course.

Student signature indicates that the information contained in this document was reviewed, an opportunity was provided to ask questions, and questions were answered to the student’s satisfaction.

Print Name

______________________________
Student Signature

______________________________
Advisor Signature/Date

“The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at Montana Tech of The University of Montana is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (www.aacn.tche.edu/ccne-accreditation).”