Department of Nursing

Diann Williams, MSN, RN, CNE Chairperson

Instructors
Rhonda Coleman, MSN, AGPGNP-C
Dawn Fuller, MSN/ED, RN
Kathryn Howell, MSN, RN

Adjunct Clinical/Lab Instructors
Tanisha Phelps, BSN, RN
LaToya Young, MNSc, APRN, AGP-C, RNC-NIC

UAPB offers two (2) program tracks leading to the B.S. in Nursing (Non-Teaching)

The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN) Program at The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791.
http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/

*Pre-licensure (Generic) Program Track
The Generic program is open to students who have completed the prescribed core of basic science and liberal arts courses required to establish the foundational knowledge for upper division nursing courses. *See the 8 semester (Curriculum) plan.

Students applying for admission to upper division must meet basic functional ability and skill requirements for professional nurses. Functional abilities are those physical and mental activities and attributes needed by a nurse to practice essential functions safely, with or without accommodations. Students must also meet the following admission requirements:

- Gain admission to the University.
- Declare nursing as an intended major.
- File an application with the Department of Nursing no later than March 15 for the fall semester of the year in which the student plans to seek admission.
- Students admitted to the program must have completed program prerequisite courses and maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and a grade of ‘C' or
better in all prerequisite courses. Admission GPA is calculated using only prerequisite courses. Elective course hours are excluded from calculation of the GPA.

- Successfully complete the required Departmental Admission Exam with a score of 65 or higher. (The Department reserves the right to determine the vendor for the Admission Exam.)

- Submit official copies of transcripts from all schools attended.

- Obtain an ACT of 19 or above or comparable Compass test scores. Evidence of successful completion of required remedial courses may be accepted.

- Students who speak English as a second language shall meet the same admission requirements. In addition, international students must follow the admission procedures for the University which are found in the UAPB Catalog, and shall pass an English proficiency examination.

- Upon Admission to the program students must present evidence of clinical requirements:
  - TB Skin Test
  - Hepatitis Series
  - Varicella Vaccines (or Titer)**
  - Tetanus (within past 10 yrs)**
    • MMR
  - Flu Vaccine**
  - Current CPR Certification
  - *Criminal Background checks (CBC)
  - Urine Drug Screens
  - Covid-19 **

** Required for specific clinical agencies.

The cost of these screenings is at the expense of the individual student. State law requires that students applying for acceptance into a medical education program submit to State and Federal Criminal Background Check*(CBC) prior to admission. The admission CBC is in addition to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) CBC that is required prior to sitting for the NCLEX-RN.

The Department uses
CastleBranch for student admission CBC’s. Students must log on to this site, set up an account and request the CBC. Results are posted on the CastleBranch portal in a secure tamper-proof location. This allows only the student and the Nursing Department administrators to view the results.

The urine drug screen is coordinated by the Department. Students will receive instructions on obtaining drug screens on the first day of class.

Students who have been convicted of **certain crimes may not be allowed to do clinical in certain clinical agencies and may be declared ineligible by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to test for licensure (NCLEX-RN), despite successful completion of the program. Students who have a conviction must make this fact known at time of application. All applicants accepted into the nursing program are required to have background checks and will be required to pay all associated fees.

Course Curriculum and Descriptions
The Pre-Licensure (Generic) BSN program is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

*CURRICULUM FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING*

Pre-licensure (Generic) Program Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL SEMESTER</th>
<th>SPRING SEMESTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRESHMAN YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>FRESHMAN YEAR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>English Composition I ENGL 1311 3</td>
<td>English Composition II ENGL 1321 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Algebra MATH 1330 3</td>
<td>*General Chemistry I Lec CHEM 1330 3</td>
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<td>General Chemistry Lab OR CHEM 1130 1</td>
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<td>Principles of Chemistry I Lec CHEM 1310</td>
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<td>Principles of Chemistry Lab CHEM 1110</td>
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<td>*Anatomy &amp; Physiology I BIOL 2451 4</td>
<td>*Anatomy &amp; Physiology II BIOL 2452 4</td>
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<td>Social Science OR SOCI 1320</td>
<td>General Psychology PSYC 2300 3</td>
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<td>Intro to Sociology SOCI 2310 3</td>
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**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

| Developmental Psychology PSYC 2302 3  | Art Appreciation OR ART 2340 3       |
| Oral Communication MCOM 2390 3       | Music Appreciation MUSI 2330         |
| Humanities HUMN 2301 3               | Intro to Literature or higher ENGL 2300 3 |
| US History or HIST 2315/18          | Microbiology BIOL 3470 4             |
| American Government PSCI 2312 3     | Statistics MATH 2370 3               |
| Elementary Nutrition HUSC 2321 3     | Physical Education HLPE 1110-25 1     |
|                                        | Effective Thinking and Logic HUMN 2304 3 |
|                                        | 15                                     |
|                                        | 17                                     |
## JUNIOR YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Dev. I:</td>
<td>NURS 3318</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Dev. II: Roles and Ethics</td>
<td>NURS 3204</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Essentials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Assessment</td>
<td>NURS 3301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing</td>
<td>NURS 3507</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care I (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 3506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care of the Childbearing</td>
<td>NURS 3508</td>
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<td>Psychiatric-Mental Health</td>
<td>NURS 4509</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacology for Nursing</td>
<td>NURS 3304</td>
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<td>Nursing Care (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
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### Total Hours: 16

## SENIOR YEAR

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence-based Practice (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4310</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Surgical Nursing (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4512</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Nursing Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Care of Children (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4510</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Care of Communities and Populations (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4513</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4511</td>
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<td>Integration Seminar</td>
<td>NURS 4111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care II (Theory &amp; Practicum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>NURS 3312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development III: Leadership and Mgmt (Theory and Practicum)</td>
<td>NURS 4401</td>
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### Total Hours: 16

*Course completed within past five (5) years*
Major Requirements Liberal Arts and Sciences Courses

BAS 1210 Personal & Social Development
ENGL1311 English
ENGL1321 English
MCOM 2390 Oral Communication
MATH1330 College Algebra
*BIOL 2451 Anatomy & Physiology
*BIOL 2452 Anatomy & Physiology
SOCI 1320 Social Science OR
SOCI 2310 Intro to Sociology
PSYC 2300 General Psychology
PSYC 2302 Developmental Psychology
*CHEM 1330 General Chemistry
CHEM 1130 General Chemistry Lab
OR
CHEM 1310 Principles of Chemistry
CHEM 1110 Principles of Chemistry Lab
*HUMN 2321 Nutrition
HUMN 2301 Humanities
HUMN 2304 Effective Thinking and Logic
*BIOL 3470 General Microbiology
HLPE 1110-1125 Physical Education
ENGL 2300/2360/2361 Literature Elective
HIST 2315/2318 U.S. History OR
PSCI 2312 American Government
MUSI 2330 Music Appreciation OR
ART 2340 Art Appreciation
MATH 2370 Statistics
*Course must be completed in the past five (5) years

In order to graduate, the student must pass the courses listed above with a grade of “C”.

Grading Scale for all Nursing Courses

A—100-90
B—89-80
C—79-75
D—74-60
F—59 or below

Nursing Courses

NURS 3318 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT I: NURSING ESSENTIALS (3)

This course introduces students to foundational requisites for successful nursing practice. Concepts of medical terminology, application of math for medication and administration, and therapeutic communication skills are emphasized. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Prerequisite: Admission to Upper Division Nursing. Course Credits: 3 semester hours. Co-requisites: NURS 3301, NURS 3506, and NURS 3312.

NURS 3301 HEALTH ASSESSMENT (3)

This course is designed to prepare students to complete a physical and health assessment of infant, pediatric, adult, and geriatric clients. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in history taking and performing physical and health assessments to promote the critical analysis of normal and abnormal data. Emphasis is placed on utilization of accurate medical terminology and nursing documentation in the process of history taking and the nursing process. The student will learn to apply the basic skills of observation, inspection, palpation, and auscultation in the head to toe assessment. Variation of culture in the health assessment procedure is also emphasized in providing caring, competent nursing interventions. This 3 hours course is made up of 2 credits of didactics and 1 credit hour of laboratory skills = 3 hours of laboratory time. Thus, for a 15 week semester, this course will be 2 hours theory = 30 clock hours and 1 hour credit lab = 30 clock hours. Course Credits: 3 semester hours.
Prerequisite: Admission to Upper Division Nursing. Co-requisites: NURS 3318, NURS 3506, and NURS 3312.

NURS 3506 FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)
This course combines theory, lab and clinical practice to introduce beginning nursing students to the concepts and psychomotor skills need to provide nursing care to individuals with compromised health problems across the life span. The nursing process, drug math calculations, and basic psychomotor skills are presented and used to guide development or nursing roles and professional practice. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. This course meets the mission and philosophy of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the Department of Nursing by establishing a foundation on which additional knowledge can be developed. Course Credits: 5 semester hours; Lecture: 3 hours per week; Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisite: Admission to the Nursing Program. Co-requisites: NURS 3318, NURS 3301, and NURS 3312.

NURS 3304 PHARMACOLOGY (3)
This course focuses on establishing a knowledge base for pharmacotherapeutics and use of therapeutic drugs when caring for clients across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on the nursing process, drug safety, legal, cultural and ethical aspects of pharmacology and client education. Students will understand rationales for drugs prescribed and intended therapeutic effects. Course credits: 3 – 45 contact hours. Prerequisites: NURS 3318, NURS 3301, NURS 3506, and NURS 3312. Corequisites: NURS 3204, NURS 3507, NURS 3508, and NURS 3304.

NURS 3312 NURSING INFORMATICS (3)
This course explores the use of information technology in nursing practice and its role in enhancing client care. Issues related to privacy protection, confidentiality, security of information in health care environments, and the potential use of social networking tools in communication of health care information are discussed. Course Credits: 3 semester hours. Prerequisite: Admission to Upper Division Nursing.

NURS 3507 MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING CARE I THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)
The course builds on theoretical concepts and skill proficiency achieved by students in Fundamentals of Nursing. This course emphasizes wellness, disease management and development of a safe and caring environment for adult and geriatric clients. The nursing process and concepts of pharmacology are reinforced through theory and clinical practice. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credits: 5. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisites: NURS 3318, NURS 3301, NURS 3506, and NURS 3312. Corequisites Courses: NURS 3204, NURS 3508, and NURS 3304.

NURS 3508 CARE OF THE CHILDBEARING FAMILY THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)
This course focuses on the development of the professional nurse role in caring for women experiencing health issues associated with pregnancy and reproductive health. The focus shifts from the individual to the family as the unit of care as students apply the nursing process and
NURS 4509 PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSING CARE THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)

The course provides the theoretical and practicum basis for professional nursing practice with clients who have psycho-social and mental health needs. Emphasis is on the therapeutic relationship and its potential to assist affected individuals and families. Application of theoretical and practicum concepts guide professional nursing practice in inpatient and outpatient clinical settings. Concepts related to treatment modalities, such as milieu therapy, crisis intervention, and psychopharmacology, designed for health promotion, maintenance, and restoration throughout the lifespan guide practicum experiences. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credits: 5. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisites: NURS 3318, NURS 3301, NURS 3506, and NURS 3312. Corequisites Courses: NURS 3204, NURS 3507, and NURS 3304.

NURS 4310 EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND NURSING RESEARCH (3)

This course prepares students for scholarly excellence in future nursing roles. Students acquire skill in reading and critiquing qualitative and quantitative research which includes quality improvement, communication techniques, clinical judgment, and nursing interventions with diverse populations. Students learn to apply ethical principles when critiquing research involving human subjects. Student develop evidence-based research utilization posters, through which they derive nursing implications based on best practices. Leadership, clinical judgment and communication skills are enhanced through dissemination of their posters in class and if possible during the University's Annual Research Forum. Course Credits: 3. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Credit: 3 semester hours. Prerequisite: NURS 4509. Co-requisites: NURS 4510 and NURS 4511.

NURS 4510 NURSING CARE OF CHILDREN THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)

This course provides the theoretical basis and clinical practice experiences for development of professional nurse roles in providing developmentally appropriate holistic care for children and their family. Emphasis is placed on health promotion, maintenance, and restoration during childhood through adolescence. Knowledge is acquired to allow the professional nurse to use evidence based practice to provide high quality care to pediatric clients facing a vast variety of health issues. Knowledge gained in this course will provide the foundation required for competent care of the pediatric client. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course credits: 5. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisite Courses: NURS 4509. Corequisites Courses: NURS 4310 and NURS 4511.

NURS 4511 MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING CARE II THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)

This course further develops the professional nurse role through integrations and furthering knowledge and skills developed in the Fundamentals of Nursing and Medical Surgical Nursing Care I. Students are prepared to care for adults and geriatric clients with chronic medical surgical health problems in the acute setting. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credits: 5. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisites: NURS 4509. Co-requisites: NURS 4310 AND NURS 4510.

NURS 4512 MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING CARE III THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)

Medical Surgical Nursing Care III builds on knowledge and skills developed in Fundamentals of Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing Care I, and Medical Surgical Nursing Care II. Senior nursing students are introduced to critical care and emergency nursing concepts. The professional nurse role is developed further as students care for individuals and families throughout the life span experiencing acute and complex medical surgical health problems. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credit Hours: 5. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week.
Prerequisites: NURS 4511, NURS 4310, and NURS 4510. Co-requisites: NURS 4513, NURS 4111, and NURS 4401.

NURS 4513 NURSING CARE OF COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS THEORY and PRACTICUM (5)

This course focuses on public health promotion by applying prevention, detection, and rehabilitation concepts to individuals, families, and communities. Since the development of public policy there is more of a focus on health promotion, lifestyle factors, and disease prevention. The course emphasized continued changes needed within the public health system for future decline in death, illness and disability rates. The goals and objectives of Healthy People 2020 which target social, economic, and environmental factors impacting healthy communities, individuals, families, communities, and populations across the life span are explored. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credits: 5 semester hours. Lecture: 3 hours per week. Practicum: 6 hours per week. Prerequisites: NURS 4310, NURS 4510, and NURS 4511. Co-requisites: NURS 4512, NURS 4111, and NURS 4401.

NURS 4111 INTEGRATION SEMINAR (1)

Integration seminar provides a review of the course content for all courses in the nursing program with the exception of course co-requisites. During the course students are required to demonstrate readiness for success on the NCLEX-RN through obtaining the required readiness predictor score on a nationally normed exam determined by the department. A satisfactory grade is required on the NCLEX readiness to pass the course. This is a pass/fail course. Failure of this course will result in non-matriculation. Lecture: 1 hour per week. Course Credits: 1. Prerequisite: NURS 4310, NURS 4510, and NURS 4511. Co-requisites: NURS 4512, NURS 4111, and NURS 4401.

NURS 4401 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT III: Leadership and Management Theory and PRACTICUM (4)

This course is designed to emphasize the foundational relevance of quality leadership and management knowledge and skills necessary for the role of the professional nurse. This course helps the student to assimilate strategies and rationales for effective leadership and management in professional nursing practice. Students read landmark documents that summarize research and evidence based recommendations for best quality care, consider best approaches, and develop core competencies to insure the implementation of best practices for better health care. In addition to theory, this course requires the completion of 90 clinical hours. Course Credits: 4. Lecture: 2 hours per week. Practicum 6 hours per week. Credit: 2 semester hours. Prerequisites: NURS 4310, NURS 4510, and NURS 4511. Co-requisites: NURS 4512, NURS 4513, and NURS 4111.

17-3-102. Licensing restrictions based on criminal records.

(a) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by a licensing entity if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq., or otherwise previously sealed, pardoned or expunged under prior law:

(1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;

(2) Murder in the first degree and second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10-103;

(3) Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;

(4) Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;
(5) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;

(6) False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-11-103;

(7) Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-11-106;

(8) Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;

(9) Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;

(10) Battery in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-201;

(11) Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;

(12) Introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;

(13) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;

(14) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;

(15) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;

(16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110;

(17) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;

(18) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 — 5-14-127;

(19) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;

(20) Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 — 5-26-306;

(21) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-27-201;

(22) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;

(23) Permitting the abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221;

(24) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;

(25) Computer child pornography as prohibited in § 5-27-603;

(26) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;

(27) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;

(28) Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;

(29) Theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;

(30) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;

(31) Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
(32) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, §§ 5-64-101 — 5-64-510, as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401, and §§ 5-64-419 — 5-64-442;
(33) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
(34) Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229;
(35) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy, as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection; and
(36) All other crimes referenced in this title.

(b) If an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section, a licensing entity may waive disqualification or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:
- (A) An affected applicant for a license; or
- (B) The individual holding a license subject to revocation.

(2) A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:
- (A) The age at which the offense was committed;
- (B) The circumstances surrounding the offense;
- (C) The length of time since the offense was committed;
- (D) Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
- (E) Employment references since the offense was committed;
- (F) Character references since the offense was committed;
- (G) Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
- (H) Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.

(c) If an individual has a valid criminal conviction for an offense that could disqualify the individual from receiving a license, the disqualification shall not be considered for more than five (5) years from the date of conviction or incarceration or on which probation ends, whichever date is the latest, if the individual:
- (A) Was not convicted for committing a violent or sexual offense; and
- (B) Has not been convicted of any other offense during the five-year disqualification period.

(d) A licensing entity shall not, as a basis upon which a license may be granted or denied:
- (1) Use vague or generic terms, including without limitation the phrase "moral turpitude" and "good character"; or
- (2) Consider arrests without a subsequent conviction.
Due to the serious nature of the offenses, the following shall result in permanent disqualification for licensure:

1. Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
2. Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
3. Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
4. Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
5. Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
6. Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;
7. Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;
8. Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
9. Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
10. Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
11. Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103; and
12. Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301.

This chapter does not preclude a licensing entity from taking emergency action against a licensee as authorized under § 25-15-211 for the sake of public health, safety, or welfare.

The permanent disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section does not apply to an individual who holds a valid license on the effective date of this chapter.

17-87-312. Criminal background checks.

(a)
1. Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.

(b) The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.

(c) The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Division of Arkansas State
Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.

(d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant.

(e) For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.

(f) 
(1) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check.

(2) The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.

(g) 
(1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by:

(A) The affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or

(B) The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.

(2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

(h) Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(i) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.

(j) The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section.

(k) 
(1) The board may participate at the state and federal level in programs that provide notification of an arrest subsequent to an initial background check that is conducted through available governmental systems.

(2) The board may submit an applicant's fingerprints to the federal Next Generation Identification system.

(3) The fingerprints may be searched by future submissions to the Next Generation Identification system, including latent fingerprint searches.

(4) An applicant enrolled in the Next Generation Identification system is not required to re-fingerprint when a subsequent request for a state or federal criminal history background check is required if:

(A) A legible set of the applicant's fingerprints is obtained when the applicant enrolls in the Next Generation Identification system; and

(B) The applicant is subject to the Rap Back service of the Next Generation Identification system.