

Pre-Nursing **Handbook**



School of Nursing
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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School of Nursing Office of Academic Affairs

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

Academic Advising

Our undergraduate academic advisors are located within the Nursing Office of Academic Affairs in Cooper Hall 1100. Pre-nursing (PRN), nursing (NUR), and accelerated BSN (ABSN) students are assigned to an academic advisor based on last name. BSN@Home students have a dedicated advisor who works with all students in that program.

Visit **students.nursing.wisc.edu** for detailed advisor information including how to schedule an appointment with your advisor.

Academic Advising

How Advising Works: Group and Individual Advising

Advisors help with selecting courses, connecting students to academic support resources, exploring involvement opportunities, and providing support with academic or non-academic concerns. Freshmen attend mandatory group advising in small-group sessions, both in the fall and spring terms of their first year. In their sophomore year, students attend group advising and move to one-on-one appointments with their academic advisor. Thirty-minute appointments can be scheduled by visiting <https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate-menu/undergraduate-advising/>. November and April are our busiest advising months. Plan ahead and schedule appointments early.

Email 101: What to Expect and How to Use Effectively

Our Office of Academic Affairs and academic advisors will use your official UW–Madison email account (wisc.edu) for all correspondence. You can expect messages each semester with advising reminders, important dates and deadlines, admission updates, etc. When you communicate with your academic advisor and members of the faculty via email, please keep the following tips in mind:

- Do not send the same inquiry to more than one advisor or email address. This causes more work and makes us less efficient.
- If your question cannot be answered with a relatively quick *yes* or *no* or simple explanation, make an appointment instead so we can talk through your question or situation.
- Always include the email history pertaining to the subject being discussed.
- Use a proper subject line that states the purpose of your message and use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Include your full name and 10-digit Campus ID number.
- Please do not use email to schedule an advising appointment. Schedule appointments by visiting <https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate-menu/undergraduate-advising/> or by phone at 608-263-5202.

Changing Your Major/Classification to Pre-Nursing

Current UW–Madison students can change their student classification (i.e., major) to pre-nursing (PRN) prior to 4:30pm. on the twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters. Students must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a minimum 2.75 GPA in completed nursing prerequisite course work. Students with the pre-nursing classification have an advisor in the School of Nursing and may be eligible for priority enrollment in key nursing prerequisite courses, including anatomy and physiology. We suggest schedule an advising appointment to learn more about the nursing program, admission requirements, etc. To schedule an appointment, phone 608-263-5202.

The PRN classification *does not* guarantee admission to the nursing major nor does it advantage you in the admissions process. Students from programs and majors throughout the university apply to enter the nursing program each year and all are considered equally. As noted above, the PRN classification *does* assign you to a nursing academic advisor and it can be helpful for access to prerequisite courses that give priority enrollment to students seeking to apply to the nursing major. Students classified as PRN fall under the policies and procedures of the School of Nursing.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BS-Nursing) degree is a 124-credit program.

General Education Requirements (15–20cr)

Communication A (3cr)

- Exemption possible with English placement test or AP/IB exam credit (ENG)
- Designated with *a*

Communication B (3–4cr)

- Designated with *b*

Quantitative Reasoning A (3–5cr)

- Exemption possible with math placement test or AP/IB exam credit (CALC)
- MATH 112 will simultaneously fulfill the QR-A and nursing math requirements
- Designated with *q*

Quantitative Reasoning B (3–5cr)

- Exemption possible with AP/IB exam credit (CALC, COMP SCI, ECON, PHYSICS, STATS)
- Designated with *r*

Ethnic Studies (3cr)

- Designated with *e*

Science (22cr)

Chemistry* (4–5cr)

- CHEM 103, 108, or 109
- AP/IB CHEM scores of 4/5 fulfill this prerequisite

Microbiology* (3cr)

- MICRO 101 or BIOCHEM 501

Human Anatomy* (3cr)

- ANAT&PHY 337

Human Physiology* (5cr)

- ANAT&PHY 335 (BIO/ZOO 101 or 151 and CHEM 103/108/109/115 are prerequisites)

Biology (not a degree requirement) (3cr)

- BIO/ZOO 101 or 151
- AP/IB biology 4/5
- Bio is a prereq for Human Physiology

Humanities and Social Sciences (22cr)

Psychology* (3cr)

- PSYCH 202
- AP/IB PSYCH scores of 4/5 fulfill this prereq

Sociology* (3cr)

- Introductory SOC course
- Refer to prerequisite table for options
- Some SOC prereqs also satisfy Ethnic Studies

Growth and Development* (3cr)

- Refer to prerequisite table for options

Humanities (6cr)

- Foreign language counts as Humanities credits in the nursing program
- Choose courses designated with *H*, *L*, or *Z*

Humanities or Social Sciences (7cr)

- Choose courses designated with *H*, *L*, *S*, *W*, *X*, *Y*, or *Z*

Math (3cr)

College Algebra (3cr)

- MATH 112
- Exemption possible with math placement test or AP/IB exam credit (CALC).

Electives (15–27cr)

Electives

- Additional course work to total 15–27 credits
- Retroactive credits earned in foreign language count as elective credits
- Only 3 credits of applied course work (e.g., dance, PE, art, music) count towards degree

Nursing (59cr)

Nursing

- Required nursing course work and nursing electives are used to fulfill this requirement

- Prerequisites for admission are designated with an asterisk (*).
- At least 75 of the total degree credits must be at the Intermediate (I) or Advanced (A) level. Fifty-seven of these I/A credits will be satisfied by required course work, as follows: Nursing (51cr), Pharmacology (3cr), and Pathophysiology (3cr).
- Letter codes referenced above (e.g., QR-A is designated with *q*) refer to GER, Breadth, and Level codes, also referred to as *geBLC* codes.
- Degree requirements are subject to change. Consult *The Guide* (guide.wisc.edu) for the most current official information.
- The microbiology lab (MICRO 102) and the anatomy lab (ANAT&PHYS 338) is optional for the UW–Madison nursing program, but required for many other nursing schools and potentially for licensure within certain states.

Nursing Prerequisite Equivalency Guide

This guide is designed to evaluate course work you have taken (or will take) at UW–Madison to satisfy the School of Nursing’s seven prerequisite courses. Students must complete one course in each prerequisite category. It is important to remember this is only a guide. It is not necessarily an exhaustive list; other courses may fulfill these prerequisites. It is also possible listed coursework is not offered every term, is no longer offered, or even that a listed department or course has been discontinued. We strive to maintain current information; however, course numbers and titles do change. Please be sure to talk with your nursing academic advisor to review any questions you might have about satisfying your nursing prerequisites. **The most commonly taken courses are in bold in the table**, however any of the listed classes will satisfy the prerequisite. Alternative courses are listed in regular type. UW–Madison students are encouraged to take the prerequisite courses at UW–Madison.

Prerequisite	Course Options and Notes	
Chemistry 4/5 credits (incl. lab)	CHEM 103 General Chemistry I CHEM 108 Chemistry in Our World CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry	CHEM 115 Chemical Principles I CHEM 104 General Chemistry II
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP/IB CHEM scores of 4/5 fulfill this prerequisite. CHEM 108 has no math placement requirement for enrollment nor is high school CHEM required. CHEM 103 requires a satisfying math placement test score or completion of MATH 112. One year of high school CHEM is recommended. Many students starting in CHEM 103 have the intention of completing the full sequence with CHEM 104; this sequence is not required for nursing. CHEM 109 requires at least one year of HS CHEM and placement into MATH 221 or equivalent proficiency. 	
Microbiology 3 credits	MICROBIO 101 General Microbiology (MICROBIO 102, the lab, not required) BIOCHEM 501 Intro to Biochemistry BACT 101 General Microbiology BIOCHEM 201 Intro to Biochemistry BACT 303 Prokaryotic Microbiology MICROBIO 303 Biology of Microorganisms NUTR SCI 332 Human Nutritional Needs	CHEM 343 Introductory Organic Chemistry CHEM 345 Intermediate Organic Chemistry MICROBIO 201, NUTRI SCI 431/510/631 ZOOLOGY 570 Cell Biology BMOLCHEM/PREVMED 603 Clinical and PubHlth Micro BIOCORE 303/383 Cellular Biology BMOLCHEM 314 Intro to Human Biochemistry NUTRI SCI 320 Nutrition for Health and Disease
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MICRO 101 has a prerequisite of CHEM 103, 108, or 109. BIOCHEM 501 has a prerequisite of CHEM 341 or 343. 	
Human Anatomy 3 credits	ANAT&PHY 337 Human Anatomy ZOOLOGY 430 Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates ANAT 622 Human Anatomy (for Phys. Therapy)	ANAT 428 or ANAT 437 ANAT 711 Gross Human Anatomy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who take anatomy and physiology at another institution as part of a two-course sequence (i.e., A&P I, A&P II) must complete both courses at the same institution. 	
Human Physiology 5 credits (incl. lab)	ANT&PHY 335 Physiology PHYS 435 Fundamentals of Human Physiology	BIOCORE 323 & 324 Organismal Biology and Laboratory BIOCORE 485 & 486 Organismal Biology and Laboratory
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANAT&PHY 335 has a prerequisite of BIO/ZOO 101 or 151 <i>and</i> CHEM 103, 108, 109, or 115. Students who take anatomy and physiology at another institution as part of a two-course sequence (i.e., A&P I, A&P II) must complete both courses at the same institution. 	

Nursing Prerequisite Equivalency Guide Continued

Prerequisite Course Options and Notes		
Psychology 3 credits	PSYCH 202 Introduction to Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP/IB PSYCH scores of 4/5 fulfill this prerequisite. 	
Sociology 3 credits	ANTHRO 100 General Anthropology ANTHRO 104 Cultural Anthro and Human Diversity SOC 120 Marriage and Family SOC 125 American Society: How It Really Works SOC 130 Social Problems SOC/LEGAL ST 131 Criminal Justice in America SOC 134 Problems of Am. Racial and Ethnic Minorities SOC 138 The Sociology of Gender SOC/C&E SOC 140 Intro to Community and Envrn. Soc SOC/PSYCH 160 Human Sexuality SOC 170 Population Problems SOC/G&WS 200 Intro to LGBTQ Studies SOC 210 Survey of Sociology SOC/C&E SOC 211 The Sociological Enterprise SOC/C&E SOC/G&WS 215 Gender & Work in Rural Am SOC/ASIAN AM 220 Ethnic Movements in the US SOC/C&E SOC 222 Food, Culture, and Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any SOC course with a Social Sciences breadth will satisfy this prerequisite. ANTHRO 104 and SOC 134, 170, 220 satisfy the nursing SOC prerequisite <i>and</i> the Ethnic Studies requirement. 	This prerequisite can be satisfied by any course in the Sociology Department with a Social Sciences breadth designation, or any course cross-listed with SOC that carries the Social Sciences breadth. This includes but is not limited to: SOC (course numbers 120-692) AFRICAN 277, AFROMAMER 260/277/577 AMER IND 578/639, ANTRHO 260/277 C&E SOC (course numbers 140-676) CHICLA 470, CNSR SCI 532, ECON 663, ED POL 648 ENVIR ST 540, F&W ECOL 248, G&WS 477/601/611 GEOG 244/252/260/277 HISTORY 244/252/260/277/670, JEWISH 258 JOURN 544, LACIS 260, LAW 641 LCA 244/252/614/634 LEGAL ST 415/641, POLIC SCI 244/252/260/277/544 POP HLTH 380, PSYCH 160/453/456/537 RELIG ST 614/615/634, SOC WORK 422/445 SPANISH 260, URB R PL 544/617/645/677
Human Growth and Development 3 credits	ED PSYCH 320 Human Dev. in Infancy and Childhood ED PSYCH 321 Human Dev. in Adolescence ED PSYCH 331 Human Dev., Childhood-Adolescence HDFS 362 Development of the Young Child HDFS 363 Development from Adolescence to Old Age POP HLTH/PREV MED 155 Intro to the Biology of Aging PSYCH 340 Optimal Aging CHLD&FAM 362 Development of Young Child CHLD&FAM 363 Dev from Adolescence to Old Age	SOC WORK 422 Social Issues in Aging HDFS 470 Dev. of Infants & Toddlers in Multiple Settings HDFS 478 Dev. of Black Children and Their Families ED PSYCH 521 Adolescent Dev. in Educational Contexts PSYCH 460 Child Psychology PSYCH 464 Adult Development and Aging PSYCH 561 Psychology of Adolescence PSYCH 563 Development in Infancy ANAT/POP HLTH 575 The Biological Processes of Aging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several of these courses are fall- or spring-only offerings. The pairing of ED PSYCH 320 + HDFS 363 <i>or</i> HDFS 362 + HDFS 363 covers the full lifespan, which is a requirement for many other nursing programs. UW–Madison requires only one course.

Admission to the Nursing Program

While most majors at UW–Madison are open to all students, some are competitive limited-enrollment majors. These majors have specific admission requirements and an additional selective application process. Nursing is a competitive limited-enrollment major at UW–Madison.

The School of Nursing offers three programs to obtain your Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

1. **Traditional BSN Program** – Admission to the Traditional BSN program is for current UW–Madison, transfer, and second-degree students. Students apply to enter the School of Nursing after completing a minimum of two years of nursing prerequisite and general education coursework. To learn more: <https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/bsn/>
2. **Accelerated BSN Program** – Admission to the Accelerated BSN program is for students who have already earned at least a baccalaureate degree in any field and want to make a career change to nursing. It's a fast-track professional program that allows students to complete the Bachelor of Science–Nursing curriculum on a 12-month academically rigorous timeline. To learn more: <https://nursing.wisc.edu/accelerated-bsn/>
3. **RN-to-BSN (BSN@Home) Program** – Admission to the BSN@Home program is for registered nurses who hold a diploma or a degree from a two-year college and wish to earn a baccalaureate degree. To learn more: <https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/rn-to-bsn/>

Traditional BSN Program Admission Considerations

We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, exposure and/or experience in nursing or health care, as well as leadership, community service, creativity, talent, and enthusiasm. Admission is offered to students who present the strongest overall applications and who are anticipated to contribute the most to the class, school, and university. Nursing faculty members who serve on the Undergraduate Admissions and Progression Committee review and make decisions on all applications for admission. Advisors do not make admission decisions. In reviewing applications, the admissions committee completes a thorough and holistic review. Factors/attributes considered include:

- Academic Preparation and Performance
- Diversity in Experience and Background
- Health Care Experience and Professional Goals
- Interview & writing assessment
- Leadership, Extracurricular Activities, and Service
- Quality of Application Essays

In a typical year, we receive approximately 400 applications for 160 seats in the class.

Traditional BSN Program Application Process and Timeline

We accept applications once a year for a fall-term start. The application is typically available December 1 through January 15. For additional details: <https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/bsn/>. All qualified applicants are invited to participate in an interview and writing assessments, which typically happens in April. The School of Nursing will notify students of admissions decisions in mid-May via email.

Traditional BSN Program Admission Eligibility Information

To be eligible for admission into the Traditional BSN program, students must, at the time of application:

1. Be in progress to complete at least 54 degree credits of college-level course work by the end of the spring semester,
2. Have a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) at the end of the fall semester and again at the end of the spring semester,
3. Have completed or have in progress 4 of the 7 prerequisite courses by the end of the fall semester, and be enrolled to complete all 7 by the end of the spring semester, and
4. Have a minimum cumulative prerequisite GPA of 2.75 on all prerequisites at the time of application and complete all 7 with at least a 2.75 GPA.
5. Have a grade of a C or better in all final prerequisite courses.
6. Admission to the program is contingent on remaining eligible in all above criteria through the spring semester. Final eligibility is assessed for all admitted students.

How Do I Calculate my GPAs for Admission?

The School of Nursing calculates two GPAs for admission eligibility consideration:

1. **Cumulative GPA:** Your cumulative GPA refers to your overall GPA, including all undergraduate college-level course work completed at all institutions. Repeated course work is factored into your cumulative GPA. Technical or vocational courses (e.g., nursing assistant classes) are not included in the cumulative GPA.
2. **Prerequisite GPA:** The prerequisite GPA is calculated by averaging the grades earned in the nursing program's seven required prerequisite courses. When more than one course has been completed that will satisfy a single prerequisite (e.g., both CHEM 103 and 104), the course outcome that most advantages the student will be used in the calculation. For repeated prerequisites, the most recent attempt is used for CHEM, MICRO, ANAT/PHY 337 and 335, and PSYCH. The higher grade earned is used for SOC and HG&D. Please note that a grade of a C or better must be earned in all final prerequisite courses.

Cumulative, semester, and prerequisite GPAs can be calculated by dividing the applicable amount of grade points earned by the total amount of credit hours attempted. There are many online calculators that will do these calculations for you. A good UW–Madison version is at advising.wisc.edu/gpascalculator

Here's an example of a prerequisite GPA calculation:

Course	Credits	Letter Grade / Points	Grade Points
CHEM 108	5	AB / 3.5	17.5 (# Credits x Points)
MICRO 101	3	C / 2.0	6
ANAT&PHY 337	3	AB / 3.5	10.5
ANAT&PHY 335	5	BC / 2.5	12.5
PSYCH 202	3	A / 4.0	12
SOC (SOC 120)	3	AB / 3.5	10.5
HG&D (HDFS 362)	3	A / 4.0	12
Total	25		81
			GPA = 81 ÷ 25 = 3.24

Grade Pts	
A	4.0
AB	3.5
B	3.0
BC	2.5
C	2.0
D	1
F	0

Pre-Nursing Program Plan

The goal during the pre-nursing years is to complete all nursing admission prerequisite requirements, in addition to all other degree requirements that are not built into the nursing program plan. This includes General Education Requirements, course work in science, social sciences, humanities, electives, and math. Following are generic sample schedules for the two pre-nursing years, your specific situation may (and likely will) look differently:

Freshman Year

Fall Semester	Credits (14–18)	Spring Semester	Credits (13–15)
CHEM 103* (nursing prereq; and prereq for ANAT&PHY 335 and MICRO)	4	BIO/ZOO 101 (prereq for ANAT&PHY 335; lab optional)	3
Or BIO/ZOO 101 (prereq for ANAT&PHY 335; lab optional)	3–5	Or CHEM 103* or 108* (nursing prereq; and for ANAT&PHY 335 and MICRO)	4–5
Math 112/QR-A, or QR-B, or Ethnic Studies	3–4	Social Science prereq (SOC, PSYCH, or Human Development)*	3
N105 Health Care Systems (FIG only)	2	Comm-A	3
Humanities, or Social Sciences, or Elective	3–4	Humanities, or Social Sciences, or Elective	3–4

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester	Credits (12–16)	Spring Semester	Credits (13–16)
ANAT&PHY 337* (anatomy lab is optional, see notes)	3	ANAT&PHY 335*	5
MICRO 101* (micro lab optional, see notes)	3–5	Social Science prereq (if needed) (SOC, PSYCH, or Human Development)*	3–5
Social Science prereq (SOC, PSYCH, or Human Development)*	3	N105 Health Care Systems (if not completed freshman year)	2
Math 112/QR-A, or QR-B, or Ethnic Studies	3–4	Comm-B or Humanities/Social Science	3–4
Parallel Plan/exploration course	3	Parallel Plan/exploration course	3

Notes:

- Prerequisites for admission are bolded and designated with an asterisk (*).
- All prerequisites should be completed on the UW–Madison campus unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Priority enrollment is granted for pre-nursing (PRN) students for ANAT&PHY 337 (fall semesters only) and ANAT&PHY 335 (spring semesters only). *Priority enrollment does not guarantee a seat in the course.*
- The microbiology lab (MICRO 102) and the anatomy lab (ANAT&PHY 338) are optional for the UW–Madison nursing program but may be required for other nursing schools and potentially for licensure post-graduation within certain states.

Nursing Program Plan - Traditional BSN Program

Nursing Year One

Fall Semester	Credits (17)	Spring Semester	Credits (16)
N105 Health Care Systems (if not completed during pre-nursing years)	2	N323 Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals and Families	4
N313 Foundations of Nursing Practice	3	N324 Meeting the Psychosocial Health Needs of Individuals, Families, and Communities	3
N314 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan	4	N325 Professionalism in Health Care Settings	2
N315 Professionalism in Nursing Practice	3	N326 / N327* Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals and Families: Experiential Learning I/II	2/2
N316* Foundations of Nursing Practice: Experiential Learning	4	N318 Pathophysiology Essentials for Nursing Practice	3
N317 Pharmacology Essentials for Nursing Practice	3		

Nursing Year Two

Fall Semester	Credits (13)	Spring Semester	Credits (13)
N434 Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals, Families, and Communities	5	N443 Advanced Concepts in Complex Nursing Practice	5
N435 Evidence-Based Practice	1	N444 Health Systems, Policy, Economics, and Research (see notes below)	3
N436* Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals, Families, and Communities: Experiential Learning	4	N445 Transformative Nursing Capstone	1
N437 Social Justice in Local and Global Settings	3	N446* Advanced Health and Illness Concepts in Complex Nursing Practice: Experiential Learning	4

Notes:

- The experiential learning (clinical) courses are designated with an asterisk (*). Students complete 5-7 clinical rotations.
- Students in the nursing Honors Program complete N679 (2cr) during spring term of Year One and the N681/N682 Senior Honors Thesis (2–4cr) sequence in the fall and spring of Year Two. Honors Program students also take N442 instead of N444.
- Nursing electives are offered each semester, including summer term. Options may include: N510 Culturally Congruent Practice, N526 Nursing Leadership for Global Health, N511 Community Supports for People with Dementia, N470 School Nursing, and more.

Parallel Planning

What does “parallel plan” mean?

A parallel plan could be thought of as a backup plan or alternate route, which can lead you toward your educational and career goals.

Your parallel plan answers the question of: “If I’m not admitted to nursing, then I’ll...”

Why is parallel planning important?

Admission to the nursing major is highly competitive. In a typical year, we receive more than 400 applications for approximately 160 seats in the class. Your parallel plan is vital in the event that your interests/plans/strengths change or you do not gain admission to the nursing program.

When should I get serious about my parallel plan?

Now! It’s never too early to actively research and pursue your parallel plans. Students who procrastinate miss key deadlines and experience increased stress. Reflect on your interests and research your parallel plan options.

What are my parallel plan options?

You could pursue a parallel major at UW–Madison or transfer to a different nursing program. Here are some points for consideration about these two parallel plan options:

Parallel Plan #1: Complete a Parallel Major at UW–Madison

Explore more than 160 majors at UW–Madison that share common elements you find rewarding. Common parallel majors among pre-nursing students include Human Development and Family Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, Psychology, Nutritional Sciences, Communications Science and Disorders, Biology, Rehabilitation Psychology, Health Equity & Promotion, etc. Upon graduation from UW–Madison with your parallel plan major, you may apply to accelerated nursing programs and/or to UW–Madison’s nursing major.

Resources: There are several advising offices that can assist with your parallel major exploration:

- Exploration Center (EC): www.ccas.wisc.edu/explorationcenter
- Cross-College Advising Service (CCAS): www.ccas.wisc.edu
- Center for Pre-Health Advising: www.prehealth.wisc.edu

Parallel Plan #2: Transfer to a Different Nursing Program

While preparing to apply to the UW–Madison School of Nursing, prepare to simultaneously apply to other institutions that offer the nursing major.

- Research other program prerequisites, admission requirements, and overall degree requirements
- Use the Transfer Information System (TIS) if considering nursing programs within the UW System (www.uwsa.edu/tis)
- Contact academic advisors at transfer institutions to verify course selection and learn valuable information about their application process

Resources: The American Association of College of Nursing (AACN) has a national Program Search function at www.aacn.nche.edu/students/nursing-program-search

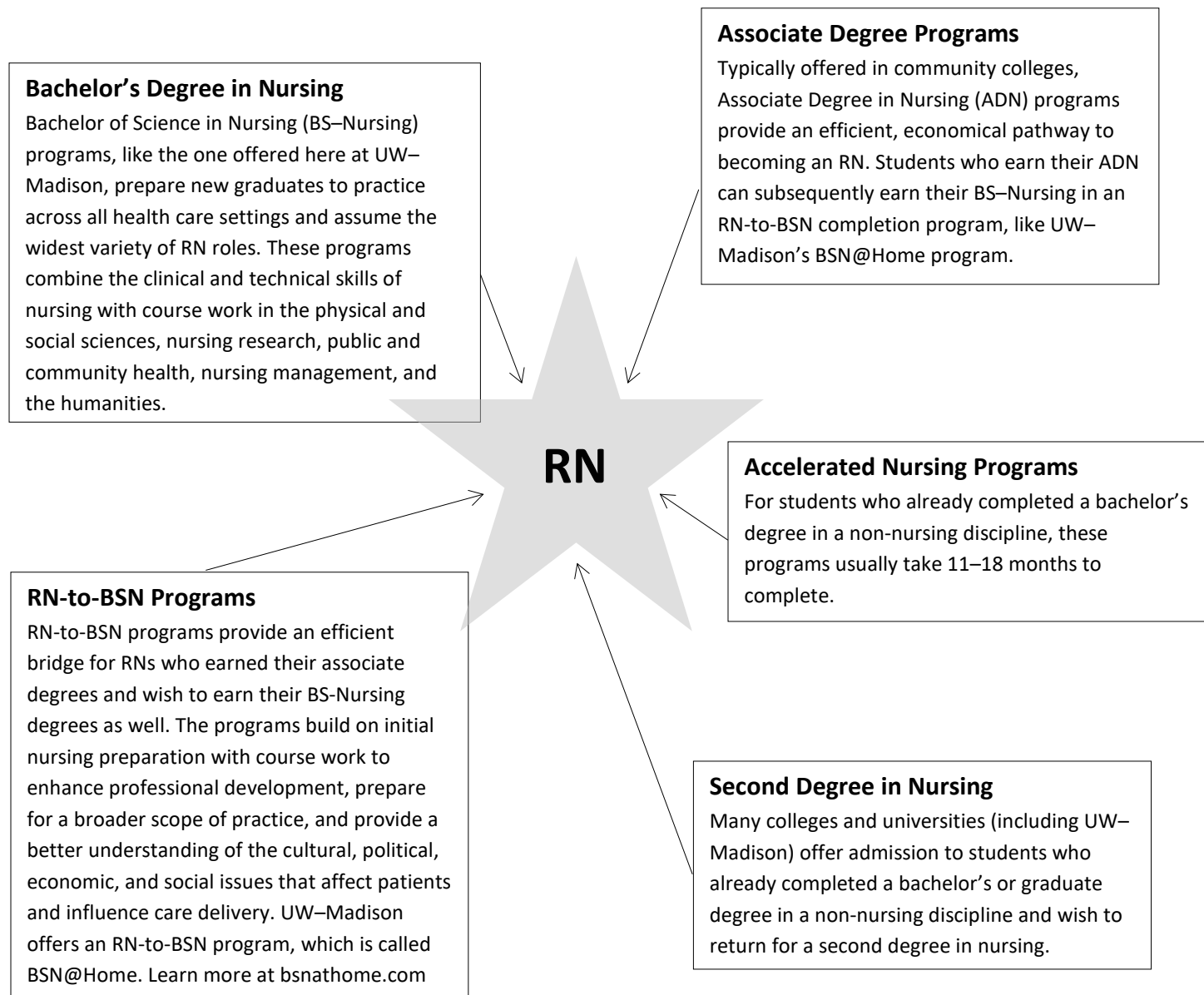
Parallel Planning

Why are you discouraging me from my nursing goals?

We're not. Parallel planning is the most proactive path toward ensuring that you meet your stated educational and career goals.

I'm so worried...my only goal is to become a nurse!

Earning your nursing degree from UW–Madison is one of many ways to becoming a registered nurse (RN). You might think of it as the *best* way, but we want you to keep in mind there are *many* pathways to reaching your career goals. Check them out:



Pre-Nursing and Nursing Student Opportunities

The School of Nursing gives you a variety of options for personalizing your pre-nursing experience, including exposure to nursing related experiences, exploring parallel plans, receiving academic support, and participating in leadership opportunities. Connect with your advisor to learn more!

Student Website – where you'll find information and resources!

The Student Site (students.nursing.wisc.edu) is designed for pre-nursing and nursing students. It includes up-to-date information about academic advising, course enrollment, involvement opportunities, school policies and procedures, career services, events and announcements, and more. The Student Site also has multiple resource links to commonly used services such as University Health Services and the McBurney Disability Resource Center. Additionally, pre-nursing students receive a weekly Student Site email digest.

Student Organizations and Volunteering

We encourage students to pursue your interests, form social networks, and gain experience in the health care field. We encourage you to explore the Wisconsin Involvement Network and get involved in something that interests you. Popular organizations include Aspiring Nurses Association (ANA), Multicultural Nursing Student Organization (MNSO), and Student Nurses Association (SNA). Visit the Student Organization Fair at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters and see students.nursing.wisc.edu for more information. For volunteering and shadowing opportunities, check out the Center for Pre-Health Advising website (prehealth.wisc.edu).

Certificate Programs

Several schools and colleges at UW–Madison offer certificate programs that allow you to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to your nursing program. Certificates typically require 15 credits of additional course work and reinforce a student's personal or career goals. Certificate programs often completed by nursing students include Global Health, Gender and Women's Studies, Health and the Humanities, Leadership, and Religious Studies. The full list of options can be found in at <https://www.wisc.edu/academics/certificates/>.

Study Abroad Opportunities

The UW–Madison International Academic Programs (IAP) office assists students in making decisions about study abroad programs that fit into their academic goals and personal interests. If you are considering studying abroad as a pre-nursing student, please visit the IAP website (www.studyabroad.wisc.edu) for detailed program information and contact your nursing advisor to discuss prerequisite course scheduling.

Nursing Learning Center (NLC)

The NLC is designed to assist nursing students in a variety of study sessions and workshops. Currently, academic assistance in all nursing courses is available, as well as other support opportunities such as an NCLEX review workshop for nursing students and student wellness. Learn more at go.wisc.edu/nlc

Pre-Nursing and Nursing Student Opportunities

Honors Program

Students admitted into the nursing program have the option to enroll in the Nursing Honors Program. The Honors Program provides special opportunities for students who seek greater depth and challenge in their educational experience. It includes enriched course work and research involvement, as well as the opportunity to develop a mentoring relationship with a School of Nursing professor. Students have the opportunity to enroll in special sections of courses and seminars that offer more challenging assignments and experiences. More information can be found under the *Academics* tab on the School of Nursing website (www.nursing.wisc.edu).

Independent Study

Pre-nursing students have the opportunity to enroll in independent study (N299) credits as part of their nursing education. These learning experiences provide a way for students to individualize their programs of study, and delve more deeply into an area of interest. Independent study credits cannot be used for clinical experiences nor can they replace or substitute required formal or clinical course work. Connect with your advisor to learn more about this process.

Global and Local Immersion

The School of Nursing offers summer global and local immersion opportunities to admitted nursing students. Learn more at students.nursing.wisc.edu.

BS–MPH Option

The School of Nursing and the Master of Public Health (MPH) program in the School of Medicine and Public Health have partnered to offer an advanced-placement BS–Nursing to MPH degree option. The program seeks to strengthen the public health nursing workforce by educating master’s-prepared public health nurses to provide population-based services and health education in the prevention of diseases and promotion of health in communities. Graduates of this option are able to complete a BS–Nursing and MPH degree in an accelerated fashion over five years (three years from admission to the nursing major). Learn more at <https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/bsn/>

Early Entry PhD Option

The Early Entry PhD Option in nursing is an innovative program designed for undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a research career. With the assistance of a faculty advisory committee, students plan an individualized program of study and research, drawing on existing undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and related disciplines. The option consists of early and intensive research training, clinical practice, and required and recommended course work. Two degrees are awarded to students who complete this option—the BS–Nursing and the Ph.D. For more information, visit the School of Nursing website at <https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/bsn/>

Academic Policies

For all curricular and policy information, please reference *The Guide* (guide.wisc.edu).

Nursing as a Profession

Nursing is no longer confined to the bedside. Today's nurses can be found in a variety of professional venues. Nurses influence legislation, change health care delivery systems, write and publish, educate about disease prevention and health promotion, and participate on boards of directors.

Nursing Defined

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), “Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations.”

What Nurses Do

- Perform physical exams and health histories
- Provide health promotion, counseling, and education
- Administer medications, wound care, and numerous other personalized interventions
- Interpret patient information and make critical decisions about needed actions
- Coordinate care, in collaboration with a wide array of health care professionals
- Direct and supervise care delivered by other health care personnel
- Conduct research in support of improved practice and patient outcomes

Where Nursing Happens

Registered nurses (RNs) practice in all health care settings: hospitals, nursing homes, medical offices, ambulatory care centers, community health centers, schools, retail clinics, and the military. They also provide health care in other locations such as camps, homeless shelters, prisons, and sporting events.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Advanced practice nurses earn advanced degrees and complete clinical practice requirements beyond the basic nursing education. The principal types of advanced practice nurses are:

- **Nurse Practitioner (NP):** Working in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, or private offices, NPs provide primary and preventive health care services, prescribe medication, and diagnose and treat minor illnesses and injuries. UW–Madison offers the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.
- **Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM):** Provide well-woman gynecological and low-risk obstetrical care in hospitals, birth centers, and homes.
- **Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS):** CNSs handle a wide range of physical and mental health problems. They also work in consultation, research, education, and administration.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA):** CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of anesthetics given to patients each year.

RNs Can Specialize...

- **In a work setting or type of treatment:** Ambulatory care, critical care, emergency or trauma, home health care, long-term care, medical-surgical, psychiatric/mental health, rehabilitation, and holistic, hospice and palliative care
- **In a particular disease, ailment, or health care condition:** Addictions, intellectual and developmental disabilities, diabetes management, genetics, HIV/AIDS, and oncology
- **By population:** Newborns (neonatology), children and adolescents (pediatrics), adults, and the elderly (geriatrics)
- **In the treatment of a particular organ or body system:** Cardiovascular, dermatology, gastroenterology, gynecology, nephrology, neuroscience, ophthalmic, orthopedics, otorhinolaryngology, respiratory, and urology
- **In jobs that require little or no direct patient care, but still require an active RN license:** Public health nurses, nurse educators, forensic nurses, nurse informaticists, health care consultants, public policy advisors, pharmaceutical and medical supply researchers and salespersons, and medical writers and editors

Possible Career Options

Career options for nurses are nearly limitless, though some do require advanced education. Here are just a few:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Neurological Nurse | • Labor and Delivery Nurse | • School Nurse |
| • Geriatric Specialist | • Nurse Anesthetist | • Women's Health Practitioner |
| • Emergency Room Nurse | • Patient Educator | • Mental Health Nurse |
| • Home Health Coordinator | • Nurse Practitioner | • Pediatric Nurse |
| • Nursing Faculty | • Surgical Nurse | • Health Educator |
| • Oncology Nurse | • Orthopedic Nurse | |
| • Hospice Nurse | • Nurse Midwife | |

Licensure

Graduates of our BS–Nursing program earn their nursing *degree*, which qualifies them to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX–RN). Upon passing the NCLEX, students earn their *license* to practice as an RN.

Nursing Career Research

- Explore Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/6/Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing: www.aacn.nche.edu
- American Nurses Association: www.nursingworld.org
- Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/ooh (search for nursing)

Notes

School of Nursing Vision Statement

To be a preeminent School of Nursing that assures health for all through leadership, innovation, and collaboration in research, education, and practice.

School of Nursing Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Nursing is to develop leaders for the profession and society. We make discoveries, enhance systems, and improve health through research, education, and practice.

School of Nursing Advising Mission Statement

To help our students identify and clarify their academic pathways and educational goals while developing meaningful plans to ensure academic success.

