

NURSING, BSN

The traditional bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree program prepares individuals for careers in professional nursing in hospitals and other health care agencies. This traditional BSN program provides a foundation for progressing to positions of increased responsibility, leadership, and continued education in graduate programs. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the UW–Madison School of Nursing.

The curriculum includes courses in nursing as well as in liberal arts and sciences. Most students enter UW–Madison as pre-nursing students and spend their first two years completing nursing prerequisite and general education courses. Students then apply midway through their sophomore year to enter the nursing program as juniors. From there, the two-year nursing component includes lectures, laboratory, and clinical courses. Nursing courses emphasize clinical decision-making and the application of theoretical knowledge. Clinical experiences can be up to 90 miles from Madison and may include ambulatory sites, clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, geriatric facilities, school districts, nursing homes, policy centers, etc. This range of sites and opportunities gives students comprehensive exposure to a broad range of patients, illness, and care in both clinical patient and community health settings. Elective courses in general education and in nursing permit students to pursue individual interests.

HOW TO GET IN

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Admission to the nursing major is competitive and determined by a comprehensive review of each student's academic preparation and performance, leadership, extracurricular activities and service, health care experience and background, diversity in experience and background, and the quality of application statements/essays.

Upper Division admission is the standard route into the Traditional BSN nursing program. In this model, students enter UW–Madison as pre-nursing students (PRN), they spend the first two years completing general education requirements and nursing prerequisites, and then apply for admission to the nursing program for the final two years on campus. Students may also apply to transfer directly into the Traditional BSN campus from another institution, upon completing the admission requirements.

Admission is highly competitive and based on factors including academic performance, pattern and trend of grades, courses taken, leadership roles, extracurricular activities, experiences related to health care, and experiences or background in diverse cultural, social, and geographic settings. Approximately half the students who apply for admission are admitted. The application deadline is February 1 to enter the nursing program the following fall.

To be considered for 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 four of the following seven prerequisite courses by the end of the fall semester, and be enrolled to complete all seven by the end of the spring semester; and
4. have a minimum combined prerequisite GPA of 2.75 and earn at least a C (2.0) in each of the individual seven prerequisite courses.

The seven prerequisite courses are:

1. Chemistry w/ Lab
2. Microbiology
3. Human Anatomy
4. Human Physiology
5. Psychology (introductory)
6. Sociology (introductory)
7. Human Growth and Development

Students transferring to the University of Wisconsin–Madison, as well as students who already have a bachelor's degree and wish to earn a second degree in nursing, also apply to the Traditional BSN program via the Upper Division Admission option. More information on the admission process and requirements for transfer students and second-degree students is available on the School of Nursing website (<https://nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate/bsn/>).

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A Part B *
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

TRADITIONAL BSN MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Note: This program requires a minimum of 124 credits to earn the degree.

SCIENCE

Code	Title	Credits
Science		
<i>Chemistry</i>		
Select one of the following:		4-5
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	
CHEM 108	Chemistry in Our World	
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Equivalent		
<i>Microbiology</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
MICROBIO 101	General Microbiology	
BIOCHEM 501	Introduction to Biochemistry	
Equivalent		
<i>Human Anatomy</i>		
ANAT&PHY 337	Human Anatomy (or equivalent)	3
<i>Physiology</i>		
ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology (or equivalent)	5
Total Credits		15-16

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Code	Title	Credits
Humanities and Social Science		
<i>Psychology</i>		
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology (or equivalent)	3
<i>Sociology</i>		
Select any introductory Sociology course		3
<i>Human Growth and Development</i>		
Select three credits of Human Growth and Development		3
<i>Humanities</i>		
Select six credits of Humanities		6
<i>Humanities or Social Science</i>		
Select seven credits of Humanities or Social Science		7
Total Credits		22

MATH

Code	Title	Credits
Math		
<i>College Algebra</i>		
MATH 112	Algebra (or equivalent)	3
Total Credits		3

ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Credits
Electives		
Select 15-27 credits of electives		15-27
Total Credits		15-27

NURSING

Code	Title	Credits
Nursing		
NURSING/ S&A PHM/ SOC WORK 105	Health Care Systems: Interdisciplinary Approach	2
NURSING 313	Foundations of Nursing Practice	2
NURSING 314	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan	3
NURSING 315	Professionalism in Nursing Practice	2
NURSING 316	Foundations of Nursing Practice: Experiential Learning	4
NURSING 317	Pharmacology Essentials for Nursing Practice	2-3
NURSING 318	Pathophysiology Essentials for Nursing Practice	3
NURSING 323	Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals and Families	4
NURSING 324	Meeting the Psychosocial Health Needs of Individuals, Families, and Communities	3
NURSING 325	Professionalism in Health Care Settings	2
NURSING 326	Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals and Families: Experiential Learning	4
NURSING 434	Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals, Families, and Communities	5
NURSING 436	Health and Illness Concepts with Individuals, Families, and Communities: Experiential Learning	4
NURSING 437	Social Justice in Local and Global Settings	3
NURSING 443	Advanced Concepts in Complex Nursing Practice	5
NURSING 444	Health Systems, Policy, Economics, and Research	3
NURSING 445	Transformative Nursing Capstone	1
NURSING 446	Advanced Concepts in Complex Nursing Practice: Experiential Learning	4
NURSING 447	Scholarship for Evidence-Based Practice	2
Total Credits		58-59

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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- Promote health and manage illness by providing safe, client-centered, culturally congruent care across the lifespan in a variety of health care settings.
- Employ professional nursing leadership concepts to address patient care and system needs to promote quality health care outcomes and health equity for all.
- Make effective use of technology for patient care, education, and management of health information.
- Understand the roles and scope of practice of disciplines of the health care team and practice as an effective, collaborating member of the interprofessional team.
- Use knowledge sources effectively to provide evidence-based care.
- Identify health disparities and advocate for basic essential health services for all.
- Allocate health care resources to maximize the health care benefit to clients, families, and community.
- Assume fiscal and ethical responsibility for clinical practice.
- Function as a member of the nursing profession within the community and the world.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This is a sample four-year plan. There are many potential variations of this plan, especially in the freshman/sophomore pre-nursing years. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with their academic advisor to develop an individualized plan that meets their specific needs. The degree requires a total of 124 credits minimum.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC/C&E SOC 210	3-4 PSYCH 202	3-4
BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 101	3 CHEM 103	4
MATH 112	3 Communications A	3
NURSING/S&A PHM/ SOC WORK 105	2 Humanities or Social Science	3-4
Humanities or Social Science	3-4	
14-16		13-15

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ANAT&PHY 337	3 ANAT&PHY 335	5
Quantitative Reasoning B	3-4 Communications B	3-4
HDFS 262	3 MICROBIO 101	3
Elective	3 Ethnic Studies	3
Humanities or Social Science	3-4 Humanities or Social Science or Elective	3-4
15-17		17-19

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURSING 313	2-3 NURSING 318	3
NURSING 314	3 NURSING 323	4
NURSING 315	2 NURSING 325	2
NURSING 316	4 NURSING 326	4
NURSING 317	2-3 NURSING 447	2
13-15		15

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURSING 434	4-5 NURSING 443	5
NURSING 436	2-4 NURSING 444	3
NURSING 437	2-3 NURSING 445	1
Nursing Elective	3 NURSING 446	2-5
NURSING 324	3 Nursing Elective	3
14-18		14-17

Total Credits 115-132

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

The School of Nursing provides dedicated, professional academic and career advising to undergraduate students in their pre-nursing and nursing years. As one of the smaller schools on campus, the school is able to offer a great deal of personal attention and individualized academic and career advising.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

All pre-nursing and nursing students are assigned an academic advisor based on the students last name. Generally speaking, freshmen receive advising in small-group sessions. Once students enter their sophomore year, they move to one-on-one advising appointments with their assigned advisor. Detailed information on the school's academic advising system

and staff (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate-menu/undergraduate-advising/>) is available on the school's student intranet, called the Student Site. Questions about advising can also be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs at 608-263-5202.

CAREER ADVISING

The school offers career advising services which provide resources and strategies for career and licensure planning. This includes workshops, career fairs, resume review, prospective employment resources, and licensure information.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Information about student support, resources, policies, forms, scholarships, clinicals, compliance, and career & student success in the School of Nursing can be found on the School of Nursing's Student Website (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/>).

PEOPLE

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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Administration

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CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Earning the bachelor of science in nursing degree is the first step toward becoming a Registered Nurse. Graduates must also take and pass the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) to receive their nursing license and begin their careers as nurses in hospitals, community health and mental health agencies, industrial health centers, nursing homes, family planning centers, crisis care centers, and beyond. A nursing license gives an individual permission to practice nursing, granted by the state where he or she met the requirements.

The School of Nursing works with students as they complete graduation requirements and the two-step process to register for the NCLEX. Specifically the school verifies graduation and assists students as they register for the exam. Most students take the NCLEX within three months of graduation. More than 90 percent of School of Nursing graduates pass the NCLEX on first attempt.

NCLEX-RN PASS RATES

National Council of State Boards of Nursing NCLEX-RN (<https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>)

Year of Exam	UW-Madison National Graduates:	First Attempt Pass Rate
April-September 2023	96%	81%
April-September 2022	85%	80%

April-
September
2021

81%

72%

Note: UW-Madison BSN Graduates pass rate reflects all UW-Madison Bachelor of Science-Nursing graduates who tested during the April-to-September test period for the first time, including recent and previous graduates.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education (via 34 CFR Part 668 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-668/toc=1>)) requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure. The expectation is that institutions will determine whether each applicable academic program meets state professional licensure requirements and provide a general disclosure of such on an official university website.

Professional licensure requirements vary from state-to-state and can change year-to-year; they are established in a variety of state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies; and they center on a range of educational requirements, including degree type, specialized accreditation, total credits, specific courses, and examinations.

UW-Madison has taken reasonable efforts to determine whether this program satisfies the educational requirements for certification/licensure in states where prospective and enrolled students are located and is disclosing that information as follows.

Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent annual review of state agency certification/licensure data and is subject to change. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with the individual/office listed in the Contact Information box on this page and with the applicable state agency for specific information.

The requirements of this program meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands

The requirements of this program do not meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

California, New York

Updated: 1 June 2024

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

RESOURCES

SIGNE SKOTT COOPER HALL

The School of Nursing is located in Signe Skott Cooper Hall. This \$53.3 million nursing building features world-class technology and innovative educational spaces that will allow the nursing school to address health

care's new standard of excellence—high-tech and high-touch methods and practices that result in better patient outcomes and greater satisfaction with care.

ADVISING AND STUDENT SERVICES

Office of Academic Affairs

The Office of Academic Affairs is the undergraduate dean's office for the School of Nursing. Staff members interpret school regulations, policies, and program requirements; make exceptions around requirements and deadlines; advise prospective and current students; monitor students having academic difficulties; coordinate compliance; facilitate the program's admissions process; and maintain the official files of students in the school.

Academic Advising

Academic advising is an essential component of undergraduate education. The primary advising mission in the School of Nursing is to help students identify and clarify their academic pathways and educational goals, and to help them develop meaningful plans to ensure academic success. Advising is an ongoing, caring, and collaborative relationship between advisor and student that provides meaning, guidance, and support throughout the educational process. Every pre-nursing (PRN) and nursing (NUR) student is assigned a professional advisor in the nursing school (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate-menu/undergraduate-advising/>). Advising is offered in individual appointments, group advising, and graduation checks for seniors.

Career Advising

In addition to professional academic advisors, the School of Nursing has career advising available to help students prepare for a successful career in nursing. Services include resume and job search assistance, online job postings, information sessions, and nursing career fairs.

Student Support & Resources

Information about student support, academic and non-academic resources, policies, forms, scholarships and financial aid, clinicals, compliance, and career & student success in the School of Nursing can be found on the School of Nursing's Student Website (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/>).

Academic Support Services

Career & Student Success (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/support-assistance/nursing-learning-center/>) Academic Support has a mission to develop the next generation of nurse leaders by providing holistic, culturally congruent student support across four dimensions: academic support, leadership and connection, career development, and wellness throughout the student experience. Students can gather with other like-minded, focused, and enthusiastic students to improve not only their understanding of the course material but of their own learning styles. Sessions are designed to assist pre-nursing and nursing students in weekly small-group study formats. Current courses supported include anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and pathology, as well as courses in the nursing curriculum. Workshops and other sessions help students with test preparation, study skills, time management, etc.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The School of Nursing encourages and supports students to pursue their interests and form social networks. In addition to numerous associations available to students on the broader campus (including the Aspiring Nurses Association [ANA] for pre-nursing students), there are a number of student-run groups established specifically for current nursing students. These include the Student Nurses' Association, the Multicultural Student Nurses' Organization, the Nurse's Christian Fellowship, the Global Health

Interest Group, the Holistic Nursing Group, the Perinatal Interest Group, and the Student Geriatric Interest Group. The purpose of these groups is to give students the opportunity to enhance their experiences related to professional development, social circles, political action, community service, and academic achievement, as well as foster connections between faculty, staff, and students.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The School of Nursing awards more than \$600,000 in scholarships each year to admitted undergraduate nursing students. Awards are based on both academic merit and financial need. Students are invited to apply to nursing-specific scholarships, as well as campus-wide or non-nursing scholarships, through the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub or WiSH (<http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/>). For more information, see the School of Nursing website (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/undergraduate-menu/scholarship-aid/.html>).

ACCREDITATION

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Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/>)

Accreditation status: Next accreditation review: 2029–2030.