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/).