School of Nursing

Entering the School

Admission to UW–Madison
All prospective UW–Madison nursing students must apply through the central Office of Admissions and Recruitment (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/).

Pre-Nursing Freshmen
Students who indicate interest in the nursing major on their UW–Madison application will be admitted to the School of Nursing as pre-nursing (PRN) students. In addition, students may indicate interest in the nursing major when registering for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR). The School of Nursing is the academic home for pre-nursing students, providing orientation, academic advising, academic support, etc., while students complete nursing prerequisite courses and general education requirements in preparation to apply to the nursing major. Most pre-nursing students apply to the nursing major midway through their sophomore year to enter the two-year Traditional BSN program as juniors.

Pre-Nursing Transfers
Students may transfer into UW–Madison as pre-nursing students. As with pre-nursing freshmen, transfer students have an academic home in the School of Nursing as they work to complete prerequisites and general education requirements in preparation to apply to the two-year Traditional BSN program.

Second-Degree Candidates
Students seeking to earn a second degree in nursing can apply directly to either the Traditional BSN program or the Accelerated BSN program upon completing necessary admission requirements (see details below). Second-degree candidates must be admitted directly into the nursing program; they cannot enter UW–Madison as pre-nursing students.

Admission to the Nursing Program

Traditional BSN
As students complete the requirements to be eligible to apply to the nursing program, they apply to the two-year Traditional BSN program. To be eligible to apply, students must complete the necessary prerequisite courses and have the minimum 2.75 cumulative and prerequisite GPAs; complete details on the Traditional BSN admission requirements and application process can be found on the Traditional BSN admission page (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing/nursing-bsn/) of this Guide.

Accelerated BSN for Second-Degree Candidates
Second-degree candidates can apply for the Accelerated BSN program. This is a 12-month intensive baccalaureate program that offers the quickest route to licensure as a registered nurse (RN) for students who have already completed a bachelor’s degree or graduate degree in a non-nursing discipline. Students must complete nursing prerequisite courses and the university General Education Requirements, and have the minimum GPAs, to be eligible to apply. Complete details on the accelerated BSN admission requirements and application process can be found on the Accelerated BSN admission page (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing/nursing-accelerated-program-bsn/) of this Guide.

RN to BSN (BSN@Home)
Registered nurses who have an associate’s degree or diploma in nursing can apply to enter the BSN@Home program to earn their bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN). There are GPA minimums and course requirements necessary for admission eligibility. These details are included on the BSN@Home admission page (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing/nursing-collaborative-program-bsn/) of this Guide.

Current UW–Madison Students
Students with at least a 2.75 cumulative and nursing prerequisite GPA may transfer into the School of Nursing as pre-nursing (PRN) students. Students who are not in the School of Nursing may also apply for the Traditional BSN program without being pre-nursing students. Transfer requests (i.e., classification changes) must be made before the twelfth week of the semester in order to be applied to that semester. Requests made after the twelfth week will take effect at the start of the following semester. For more information and to request a classification change to PRN, students should contact the nursing Office of Academic Affairs at 608-263-5202 or academic.affairs@nursing.wisc.edu.