Traditional BSN Program Admission
Application Instructions and FAQs
For Program Starting Fall 2024

Thank you for your interest in our [Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)](#) program. This document is designed to guide your application process **for the program starting fall 2024**. It is your responsibility to understand and complete all requirements for admission consideration. If you have any questions that are not answered here or on our [website](#), please contact the Nursing Academic Affairs Office at admissions@nursing.wisc.edu.

Application Eligibility

Admitted students to our Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program start once a year in the fall semester. The application opens December 1, 2023, and the deadline is **January 16, 2024**. To be eligible to apply for fall 2024 admission, you 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 2024 semester
2. Have a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) at the end of the fall 2023 semester and again at the end of the spring 2024 semester based on all undergraduate college credit earned through the time of application and spring 2024 semester
3. Have completed or have in progress four of the seven prerequisite courses by the end of the fall 2023 semester and be enrolled to complete all seven by the end of the spring 2024 semester. More information regarding prerequisites can be found on the [BSN Prerequisite Course Equivalencies](#) page.
   a. Chemistry (4/5 credits, including lab)
   b. Microbiology (3 credits)
   c. Anatomy (3 credits)
   d. Physiology (5 credits, including lab)
   e. Psychology (3 credits)
   f. Sociology (3 credits)
   g. Human Growth & Development (3 credits)
4. Have a minimum cumulative prerequisite GPA of 2.75 on all prerequisites completed to date and complete all seven with at least a 2.75 GPA
5. Have at least a C (2.0) grade in each of the individual seven prerequisite courses

Note for transfer/second-degree applicants: Students who have enrolled in a Bachelor of Science-Nursing (BSN) program at another institution are not eligible to apply for admission into UW–Madison's Traditional BSN program. It is possible to request an exception to this policy by submitting the school's [Petition for Special Consideration.](#)

Admission Considerations

Admission is based on a thorough and holistic review of each application. Holistic review considers applicants' academic preparation and performance, leadership, co-curricular activities and service, work experience, health care experience and professional goals, diversity in experience and background, the quality of the personal statements, and an interview. We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, as well as leadership, intellectual curiosity, resilience, cultural competency, and enthusiasm for nursing. Admission is offered to students who present the strongest overall applications and who are anticipated to contribute to the university and nursing profession.

Prerequisite Course Work

Complete details about our prerequisite courses can be found on our admissions webpage. The seven prerequisites are chemistry with lab, microbiology, human anatomy, human physiology with lab, psychology, sociology, and human growth and development. A few important items to note follow:

- Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) scores of 4 or 5 can be used to satisfy the chemistry and psychology prerequisites.
- Anatomy and Physiology may be satisfied by one semester of Anatomy and one semester of Physiology, or by Anatomy & Physiology part 1 and Anatomy & Physiology part 2.
- UW–Madison students are expected to complete their nursing prerequisite course work at UW–Madison. However, there are circumstances when UW-Madison students must take prerequisite course work outside of UW-Madison, such as when they are unable to enroll in a course at UW-Madison due to course capacity limitations.
- Applicants who complete prerequisites at another institution should be prepared to submit course descriptions and/or syllabi to the School of Nursing so that courses can be evaluated, and equivalencies can be determined. If this is the case, you will receive an email from our Nursing Academic Affairs Office (admissions@nursing.wisc.edu). You will have up to 48 hours to submit requested documents.
- Students attending institutions on a quarter system must plan to complete four of the seven prerequisites by the end of the winter quarter (by April 1) and all seven prerequisites by the end of the spring quarter (by June 15). All prerequisites must be graded and transcripted by June 15.
- Prerequisite equivalency guides for common transfer institutions, including UW System and Technical Colleges can be accessed on our Nursing Prerequisite Equivalency Tables webpage.

Application Process

Students who meet our eligibility requirements can apply to enter the nursing program for the fall term. **Current UW-Madison students only need to complete step 1; all other applicants need to complete steps 1 and 2.**

Step 1: Apply to the Nursing program at UW-Madison in NursingCAS: https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/
- **All applicants** must complete the School of Nursing online application.
- The cost to submit the application in NursingCAS is $60 for your first application.
  - Note: You can request a fee waiver from NursingCAS – to access, select the dropdown arrow next to your name in the upper right corner and choose the Fee Waiver Form link. A request can take up to 10 days to be approved, and the waiver expires after 30 days. We encourage you to plan accordingly.
- The application is available on the NursingCAS website beginning on December 1, 2023. The deadline is **January 16, 2024.**
- Choose Fall 2024 from the dropdown menu and select apply.
- If you have not already done so, you will now need to create a NursingCAS account.
  - Applicants with an active @wisc.edu email should that email address.
  - Applicants without a @wisc.edu email address should use the same email address for both the School of Nursing and UW-Madison applications.
- After creating an account, go to the Add Program tab and then search "University of Wisconsin" to find the TBSN application. After you have found the application, click the "+" button.
- Now that you have added the University of Wisconsin-Madison, you can return to the "My Application" tab and start completing your application.
- The School of Nursing will notify you of our admission decision in mid-May via email.

Step 2: Apply to UW–Madison: https://admissions.wisc.edu/

- If you are *not* currently enrolled at UW–Madison, you must apply to the university in addition to applying to the nursing program; two separate applications are required. This applies to prospective transfer students, reentry students, second-degree candidates, and University Special Students. Current UW–Madison students complete Step 1 only.
- Transfer students and second-degree students must apply to the University using the UW System application. Please note that there is a fee to apply to the university.
- You should indicate an intended major of *Nursing* on the application.
- The university application opens December 1.
- After your application is received, the Office of Admissions and Recruitment will send you an application acknowledgement. The acknowledgement will include your campus ID number, which can then be used to activate your UW NetID and check your application status.
- All materials are due by February 15, 2024, to be considered eligible to move to the next stage of the admission process.
- You will need to request two official transcripts – one to submit with their NursingCAS application and one to submit with your UW-Madison application.
- Transcripts for the UW-Madison application should be sent to "University of Wisconsin-Madison" and *not* "University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing."
- Your nursing application will be reviewed while your university application is being processed and pending a decision with the university's Office of Admissions and Recruitment.
- **Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program.**

Nursing Program Application Details

There are four main sections to the NursingCAS application:

1. **Personal Information**
   - These are fill-in-the-blank questions, such as name, biographic information, contact details, and citizenship status.
2. **Academic History**
   - List the high school from which you attended, including city and state.
   - List **EVERY** college and university you've attended (including any you may have attended while still in high school), including dates of attendance, total credits received, and degree(s) earned.
   - Request official transcripts for **all** colleges or universities from which you obtained credit.
   - Enter transcript details for each course in which you enrolled.
     - You will need to enter all college courses you have completed, are currently in progress, or you plan to complete before the program start date.
     - According to NursingCAS, on average, this data entry takes around 30 minutes to complete.
   - Standardized Test – We are **not** using this aspect of NursingCAS so choose the "I am Not Adding Any Standardized Tests" option.
3. **Supporting Information** (work experience and involvement)
   - List **up to five** of your most meaningful activities and achievements. This might include notable leadership roles, employment experiences, community involvement, organizational memberships, family responsibilities, volunteer experiences, participation in the arts or athletics, and/or special awards or recognition.
   - Ideally, your work experience and involvement will be related to health care and/or present skills or attributes that are transferable to nursing.

- Include the amount of time you dedicated to the activity, as well as a more detailed description of your participation or accomplishments, focusing on the impact and extent of your involvement, and why this experience was meaningful.
- Provide evidence of leadership that goes beyond assuming a leadership role (e.g., explaining how your leadership impacted self/others in a positive manner).
- Responses are limited to 600 characters, including spaces and punctuation, in the "Brief description" and "Description/Key Responsibilities" sub-sections.

4. **Program Materials**
   - There are six required statements for all applicants and one re-application statement required for students who have previously applied to the Traditional BSN program.
   - If you are using AP or IB scores to fulfill a prerequisite requirement, indicate that in this section and upload your documentation here as well. The test taker copy if sufficient.
   - Each response is limited to 1,250 characters or approximately 250 words. It is your responsibility to limit your responses to the 1,250 characters, including spaces and punctuation, per prompt. Do not exceed the limit.
   - Compose your statements in a word-processing program to take advantage of spelling and grammar tools, as well as character/word counters.
   - After you are satisfied with your statements, save and copy them into the space provided in the online application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared.
   - You must submit your statements at the same time as you complete your online nursing application.

Personal Statement Prompts - Fall 2024 Application

1. Many applicants tell us they choose nursing because it is a helping profession. Please share why you are specifically choosing a career in nursing rather than another healthcare or helping profession.
2. Tell us about a question or topic in nursing or health that you are curious about. What makes it important or interesting to you?
3. Tell us about a time you demonstrated perseverance. How will that experience help you in a challenging academic program and career in nursing?
4. Please describe how your personal perspectives and/or experiences will contribute to enhancing a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect within the Nursing community?
5. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing, our mission is to develop leaders for the profession and society—we make discoveries, enhance systems, and improve health through research, education, and practice. Tell us about a time when you demonstrated leadership. How will you continue to use these skills and/or characteristics in your future nursing career?
6. Please include anything about yourself not found elsewhere in your application that you feel is important to helping the Admissions Committee understand more about you and your fit for nursing. (This may include ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected your academic or professional activities.)
7. **Reapplication Statement:** Describe what you have done to strengthen your nursing application since your last application. Include relevant academic, volunteer, employment, and personal experiences. *(Note: Respond to this prompt if you have applied for our Traditional BSN program in the past*

Personal Statement Tips and Suggestions

The Personal Statements are your opportunity to help us understand more about you, who you are, and what you hope to accomplish as part of our School of Nursing and in your career. They are your best opportunity to fully describe who you are and why you are uniquely qualified for our nursing program.

- As you write, think about the admissions committee members who will be reading your statements. What do you want them to know and understand about you and your aspirations in nursing?
- The statements are your opportunity to help us get a sense of you, learn what matters to you, and understand how you are different from other applicants.
- Carefully read each question and all the sub-questions within each question. Then respond specifically to the question(s) being asked.
- Take your time. Be reflective. Be open. Solicit feedback. Proofread. Allow time for revision.
- Use the statements to highlight positive aspects about yourself that are not apparent elsewhere in your application. Expand and build on the activities you include in the Work Experience and Involvement section, but do not just repeat the same information without providing new insights relevant to the personal statements.
- Don't know what to write for the fifth statement? This statement can outline additional experiences or unique perspectives that may not fit into other areas of the application. If all else fails, use this statement to tell us what else we need to know to make the best admission decision possible.

Transcripts

All applicants upload official transcripts to the NursingCAS application. If using AP/IB score reports to fulfill prerequisites or general education requirements, you will need to submit a score report for these tests. The test taker copy is sufficient. We will verify this information with the official college-level transcripts that you are required to submit to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment as part of your university application.

Current and Future Enrollment

In the Academic History section under "Transcript Entry" you will need to enter all In Progress/Planned courses that you will take between when you submit your application and May when initial admission decisions will be released.

Calculating Cumulative and Prerequisite GPAs

As detailed in the Application Eligibility section (page 1), to be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 2.75 for both the cumulative and prerequisite GPAs.

For the **cumulative** GPA:

- We calculate this GPA using **all** undergraduate college-level course work completed.
- You must have the minimum 2.75 at the end of the fall 2023 term and again at the end of the spring 2024 term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program for fall 2024. If after the spring term your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.75, your admission to the nursing program will be revoked.
- All course attempts are factored into this equation, including repeated coursework.
- Course work that is remedial, vocational, or doctrinal in nature will not be factored into the cumulative GPA. This includes Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course work.

For the **prerequisite** GPA:

- The grade point average of all seven prerequisite courses must equal at least 2.75. A single course can be below that level, but no lower than 2.00 (C), as long as the average is a 2.75 or above.
- You must have the minimum 2.75 prerequisite GPA at the end of the fall 2023 term and again at the end of the spring 2024 term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program for fall 2024. If after the spring term your prerequisite GPA drops below a 2.75, your admission to the nursing program will be revoked.

- 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 Chemistry, Microbiology, Anatomy, Physiology, & Psychology. The higher grade is used for repeated Sociology and Human Growth & Development prerequisites.
- If you are taking a prerequisite course during the spring 2024 term after you've applied (you can have up to three prerequisites in progress during the spring term), your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on only the prerequisites completed by the end of the fall 2023 term.
- If you are repeating a prerequisite course during the spring 2024 term after you've applied, your prerequisite GPA will not be impacted by that retake as we will not know the grade prior to admission review. Your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on all the prerequisites completed by the end of the fall 2023 term.
- If you earned a 4 or 5 on AP/IB exams and satisfied either the chemistry or psychology prerequisite in this way, your prerequisite GPA will be factored using the remaining courses. For example, if you satisfied psychology with AP credit, your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on the remaining six prerequisites.

Interview Experience

You will be invited to participate in an interview after your application has been reviewed and confirmed to have met all the eligibility requirements. Interviews are required and applicants will be assigned a date and time. Reschedules will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances. More information about the specifics of the interview experience will be provided to those invited to interview. Historically, the interview experience has included:

1. **Group interview** (20 minutes)
   The group interview will include two interviewers and 2-4 applicants. The interviewers will facilitate the interviews and ask the applicants a series of questions.
2. **Writing exercise** (20 minutes)
   The writing exercise will be completed individually. Each applicant must respond to a writing prompt. The writing exercise will be timed.

There is no preparation required. Applicants are expected to arrive on time. Silence all phones and electronic devices— these will not be needed during the interview.

Admission Decision Notification

Students applying to UW–Madison receive notification of their admission decision directly from the UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment, typically by the end of April. Please check your university application status and decision online. **Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program.** The School of Nursing will send out admission decisions in mid-May via email. Students must be offered admission to UW–Madison to be eligible for admission to the nursing program.

Steps After Admission

Applicants offered admission to the nursing program have approximately one week to accept the offer of admission via an online admission response form. Students who accept our offer of admission will receive an admission packet via email in June. This packet contains vital information and required documentation, including:

- **Spring 2024 Term Progress**: Admission is contingent on satisfactory completion of spring term course work, including any prerequisite courses in progress. We will request spring term transcripts from students not currently enrolled at UW–Madison to verify this work.

- **Compliance Requirements:** Admitted students must complete a Caregiver Background Check, become trained in CPR, and submit evidence of health documentation, among other things. Details are included in the admission packet; compliance requirements must be met by the stated summer deadline.
- **Honors Program:** any enrolled BSN students may apply to the [Nursing Honors Program](#) during the first fall semester in the nursing program. Please see our [website](#) for details.
- **Summer Orientation:** All new UW-Madison students (transfer and second-degree) will be required to attend UW–Madison's one-day orientation program called SOAR. Sessions are offered in June, July, and August. Reentry students previously enrolled as degree-seeking students at UW-Madison do not attend SOAR.
- **Welcome Into Nursing (WIN) Day:** This one-day nursing orientation program is mandatory for all students. It typically occurs the week before classes begin for the fall term.

Revoking Admission

It is possible for an offer of admission to be revoked. Some examples of when admission offers may be revoked include, but are not limited to: if you do not complete a prerequisite course, if you earn below a C (2.0) grade in a prerequisite course, if your spring course work drops your cumulative or prerequisite GPA below the 2.75 minimum, if you have not completed at least 54 degree credits of college-level course work by the end of the spring semester, if you provided false or misleading information on your application or compliance documents, or if your Caregiver Background Check reveals disqualifying information.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **How competitive is admission?**
   In a typical year, we receive 350-400 applications for 160 seats. On average, we admit less than half of the eligible applicants. In the last admission cycle, the average GPA for admitted students, both cumulative and prerequisite, was a 3.5 with GPAs ranging between 2.75 and 4.00.
2. **If I'm attending UW–Madison but my student classification (i.e., major) is not pre-nursing, can I apply?**
   Yes, you do not need to be a pre-nursing student to apply to the nursing program. Many are not. Whether or not you are currently classified as a pre-nursing student will have no impact on your admission decision.
3. **Who will review my application?**
   Nursing faculty members on the Undergraduate Admissions and Progression Committee review and make decisions on all applications for admission.
4. **Do you require or accept letters of recommendation?**
   No, we do not require or accept letters of recommendation for the School of Nursing application, however the UW-Madison application may.
5. **Do I need to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) to apply?**
   No. Being a CNA is only one possible way students can learn about the nursing profession and gain healthcare experience, but a CNA license is not required for admission. There is a question in the Academic Information section of the application where you can note if you have your CNA license or worked as a CNA.
6. **Can I save my application as I'm working on it and return to review and/or complete it later?**
   Yes, once you enter the nursing online application, you can save it and return to work on it. The application will time out with inactivity, so we recommend saving if you are going to be inactive for more than 20 minutes.
7. **Can I make a change to my application once it has been submitted?**
   No, once you click "Submit," your application is final and cannot be altered.
8. **Will I be able to print my application?**
   Yes, you may print the nursing application once you have completed it. To print, go to the "Submit Application" tab and you will see a download option next to the program name.

9. **How will I know you received my application?**
    In the NursingCAS system, go to the "Check Status" tab to see the status of your application and if it has been received.

10. **Is there a waitlist for the Traditional BSN program?**
    Yes, we do maintain a short waitlist. Students placed on the waitlist are notified of their status when admission decisions are released in mid-May. Students may be admitted from the waitlist when/if an admitted student declines the offer of admission, if admission is revoked, etc. If a waitlisted student is admitted, they are typically notified between early June and August. The waitlist is unranked and unnumbered and there is nothing a student can do to influence their status on the waitlist.

11. **If I'm not admitted, what do I do?**
    All students to whom we are not able to offer admission are invited to meet with us for a post-decision meeting. Current UW–Madison students are encouraged to talk with their academic advisor to enact their parallel plan (for more information on parallel planning, review the Pre-Nursing Handbook). Students can apply to the nursing program up to three times; thus, students may re-apply the following year if not admitted.

12. **If I'm denied, can I appeal the decision?**
    Please visit the "Decisions & Appeals" tab found on our website for instructions on submitting a formal appeal.

13. **What if I move or change my email address?**
    We use the mailing and email addresses supplied on your nursing admission application for all correspondence. It is important both are current. If they change, send an email to admissions@nursing.wisc.edu. Please include your Campus ID number in the message.

14. **If I applied in the past, can I submit my old application?**
    You will need to submit a new application to the Traditional BSN program. And if you're not currently a UW–Madison student, you will also need to apply for admission to the university (refer to Step 1 on page 2). It is important that you use the Supporting Information and Program Materials sections to showcase your growth since your prior application (refer to pages 2–4).

15. **Is there anything special I need to do as an international student applying to your program?**
    If you're currently enrolled at UW–Madison, nothing additional is needed. However, if you are not currently a UW–Madison student, please adhere to the international applicant requirements set forth by the university's Office of Admissions and Recruitment. This includes submission of results from the TOEFL or IELTS exams.

16. **I took AP or IB exams but I don't see the credits/results posted to my UW–Madison transcript or reflected on my Degree Audit Report (DARS). What should I do?**
    The university's Office of Admissions and Recruitment receives and posts all exam credit. To earn credit for exams, you must have your official grade reports or transcripts sent directly to the admissions office. Students using AP/IB results to satisfy our prerequisites in chemistry and psychology must be sure the Office of Admissions and Recruitment receives those official score reports by January 16, 2024.

17. **I took the prerequisitie courses over 5 years ago, do I need to re-take them?**
    No, we currently do not require that prerequisites need to be completed within a certain time frame (such as within the past 5 years) for the Traditional BSN program.

18. **Do you require the TEAS exam for admission?**
    No, we currently do not require applicants to complete the TEAS exam.