May 2025 Accelerated BSN Admission
Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in our Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program. This document is designed to guide your application process for the May 2025 application. 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 Nursing website, please contact us at admissions@nursing.wisc.edu.

UW–Madison prepares nurses to lead. Whether you are new to nursing or advancing your career, we support and prepare you to get you the career you want. We offer:

- active simulations using state-of-the-art technology;
- clinical site placements within 90 miles;
- hands-on training from experts; and,
- mentorship with alumni and faculty.

In only 12 months, you will become a highly trained nurse, who is well prepared to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX) exam. You will join a diverse group of talented aspiring nurses dedicated to advocating for health equity, serving communities, and changing lives.

The following instructions are important, but lengthy. We recommend printing out this PDF for reference as you complete the application.

Application Eligibility
Students are admitted to the ABSN program once a year starting in May (summer term). The application opens June 1, and the deadline is September 16. To be eligible to apply to the ABSN degree program, applicants must, at the time of application:

1. Hold or be in progress to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in a non-nursing field from an accredited institution by the program start date.
2. Complete all four of the nursing science prerequisite courses by the application deadline.
3. Complete all four of the nursing science prerequisite courses within seven years of the program start date.
4. Complete at least two of the four general education course requirements by the application deadline.
5. Complete all prerequisites before the program start date.
6. Complete all four general education course requirements by the program start date.
7. Meet the GPA minimum requirements.

Course Requirements
Nursing Prerequisites Requirements (science prerequisites are in bold)

1. Chemistry (4/5 credits, including lab)**
2. Microbiology (3 credits)
3. Anatomy (3 credits)*
4. Physiology (5 credits, including lab)*
5. Psychology (3 credits)**
6. Sociology (3 credits)
7. Human Growth & Development (3 credits)

*Anatomy and Physiology may be satisfied by one semester of Anatomy and one semester of Physiology or by A&P I and II. A combination of any A&P I/II & individual Anatomy/Physiology course is not acceptable.

**Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) scores of 4 or 5 can be used to satisfy the chemistry and psychology prerequisites but will not count towards the GPA eligibility.

UW-Madison General Education Course Requirements

1. Communications Part A: Literacy Proficiency
2. Quantitative Reasoning Part A: QR Proficiency
3. Quantitative Reasoning Part B: Enhanced QR Proficiency
4. Ethnic Studies

Course Clarifications

- Visit the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) table to see if your scores will fulfill a general education requirement.
- Only undergraduate-level college courses may satisfy general education requirements.
- General education course equivalency information can be accessed on Transferology.
- Applicants who complete prerequisites at another institution should be prepared to submit course descriptions and/or syllabi so that we can determine equivalencies.
- Check our prerequisite equivalency tables for confirmed equivalent courses from common transfer institutions, including UW System and WI Technical Colleges.
- General education requirements assume that students are engaged in focused study within the designated area, so requirements cannot be met with portions of courses.

GPA Eligibility (based on a 4.0 scale)

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all undergraduate college credits at the time of application and also prior to the program start date in May.
2. A minimum combined prerequisite GPA of 2.75 on all prerequisites completed at time of application and after all seven prerequisites are completed.
3. Have at least a C (2.0) grade in each of the individual seven prerequisite courses.

- For all prerequisite courses we will use the more advantageous GPA outcome for the applicant.

Nursing Credits Already Earned

Applicants who have previously enrolled in a professional Bachelor of Science-Nursing program at another institution are not eligible to apply for admission into UW-Madison’s Accelerated BSN program. We prioritize enrollment in our program for students who do not already have a path to the BSN degree in our admission process. It is possible to request an exception to this policy by submitting a Petition for Special Consideration. A petition should address the following: requirement to which you are requesting an alternative or exception; requested action or proposed alternative; explanation for request; impact on educational plans; and supporting documentation, if applicable.

Each appeal is reviewed individually, however the percentage of decisions that are reversed based on an appeal is historically low. Examples of situations warranting an application eligibility exception might include military obligations, personal or family medical concerns, or other extenuating circumstances that directly affect a student’s ability to earn the BSN from the other institution. Students will be required to complete all nursing degree requirements as part of the
curriculum at UW-Madison. Previously completed nursing coursework and core nursing degree requirements do not transfer into the UW–Madison School of Nursing.

**Admission Considerations**
Admission to our program entails a thorough and holistic review of each application, with a focus on selecting applicants who are anticipated to make positive contributions to both the university and the nursing profession. We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, leadership skills, intellectual curiosity, resilience, cultural competency, and enthusiasm for nursing.

**Application Process**
Students who meet our eligibility requirements can apply to enter the nursing program for the summer term (May).

**Step 1:** Complete the [NursingCAS application](#). For further help with the NursingCAS application, please see the NursingCAS Help Center.

- The application opens on June 1. The deadline is **September 16, 2024**.
- Applicants must provide all official transcripts to NursingCAS.
- There are separate fees to submit your NursingCAS application and your university application.
  - The NursingCAS fee may be waived in some cases; check the [NursingCAS Fee Assistance Program](#) to see if you qualify. If you do not qualify, or if the NursingCAS Fee Assistance program is unavailable, contact the UW School of Nursing directly ([admissions@nursing.wisc.edu](mailto:admissions@nursing.wisc.edu)) as additional opportunities may be available.

**Step 2:** Apply to [UW–Madison as a Second-Degree-Seeking Candidate](#) using the [Universities of Wisconsin application](#).

- You must provide official transcripts to “University of Wisconsin-Madison” and not “University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing.”
- Applicants must submit the application no later than October 1, 2024.
- All supporting materials must be received no later than October 15, 2024.

**NursingCAS Application Details (Step 1)**
There are four main sections in the NursingCAS application:

1. **Personal Information**
   - These are simple fill-in-the-blank questions, such as name, contact information, and residency information.
   - Your email address is where we will send all official admission communications.
     - **Note:** Current UW–Madison students should list their @wisc.edu address.
     - All other applicants should use the same email address in the nursing application and in the university application.

2. **Academic History**
   - In this section, list all the colleges and universities you’ve attended to date (including any colleges or universities in which you’re currently enrolled), including dates of attendance, total credits received, and degree(s) earned.
     - **Note** for UW-Madison pre-nursing students: there is no pre-nursing option to list as a major, so you should select “Bachelor of Science in Nursing.”
     - Request official transcripts from all colleges and universities you obtained credit.
Enter transcript details for each course in which you enrolled. According to NursingCAS, on average, this data entry takes around 30 minutes to complete. It is acceptable to save money and select “No thanks, I’ll handle it myself” to the Professional Transcript Entry question.

- After entering your transcript details in this section, you will be able to indicate how and where you completed prerequisite courses in the Program Materials section under the Prerequisites tab.
- Official transcripts will need to be sent to NursingCAS and UW-Madison's Office of Admissions and Recruitment
- Standardized Test tab – Choose the “I am Not Adding Any Standardized Tests” option. Instructions for entering your AP/IB test scores are outlined in the Program Materials section.

3. **Supporting Information**

- In total between the Achievements and Experiences sections, provide **five or fewer** entries. NursingCAS allows you to enter more than five, but we will not review more than five, so please be selective.
- You might include notable leadership roles, employment experiences, community involvement, organizational memberships, family responsibilities, volunteer experiences, participation in the arts or athletics, military service, and/or special awards or recognition.
- Include a detailed description of your participation or accomplishment, and why this experience was meaningful.
- It is not necessary to complete the non-required fields such as supervisor information.
- Enter any licensure and certifications you have, if any.

4. **Program Materials**: In this section, you will answer questions specific to our program, located on four different tabs:

**Home tab**: A condensed version of these application instructions is stored on this tab.

**Questions tab**: There are several questions on this tab including spaces for the 6 required statements (essays). An additional reapplicant statement prompt is revealed when “yes” is chosen in the Previous Applications section.

**Miscellaneous Questions section**: Answer whether you are using AP/IB test scores to satisfy prerequisites. If you choose “yes”, then you will be invited to upload your test scores on the Documents tab.

**Personal Statements (Essays)** There are six required statements for all applicants, and one reapplication statement required for students who previously applied to the BSN program. 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.
- Once you are satisfied with your essays, save them, and then 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.
- If you are reapplying to our nursing program, use the reapplication essay to your full advantage and note that the admission committee has access to any prior applications.

**Personal Statement Tips and Suggestions**

Personal Statements (essays) 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.

- 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.
- As you write, think about the admission committee faculty members who will be reading your statements.
What do you want them to know and understand about you and your aspirations in nursing?

- Carefully read all parts of all questions, and then respond specifically to the question(s) being asked.
- Use the statements to highlight positive aspects about yourself that are not apparent elsewhere in your application.
  It’s okay to expand and build on the activities included in the Work Experience and Involvement section, but do not just repeat the same information without providing new insights relevant to the personal statements.

Documents tab:
If you chose “yes” about using AP/IB test scores in the Miscellaneous Questions section of this tab, then you will be allowed to upload your test scores on the Documents tab. A test taker copy (unofficial student score report) is sufficient for the nursing application.

Prerequisites tab:
Courses need to be entered in the Academic History portion before you will be able to identify your prerequisites in this section. It is acceptable to save money and select “No thanks, I’ll handle it myself” to the Professional Transcript Entry question.

UW-Madison Application Details (Step 2)
Apply to UW–Madison as a Second-Degree-Seeking Candidate using the Universities of Wisconsin application.

- **All applicants**, including currently enrolled UW-Madison undergraduates finishing their first bachelor’s degree at UW-Madison, must apply to the university in addition to applying through NursingCAS; two separate applications are required. This applies to second-degree candidates and University Special Students.
- Apply to the university’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment using the Universities of Wisconsin application.
- You should indicate an intended major of Nursing (Accelerated) on the application.
- The university application opens August 1 for application to the subsequent summer term (May) start.
- Once your application is received, the Office of Admissions and Recruitment will send you an application acknowledgement. They begin processing applications after September 1. The acknowledgement will include your campus ID number, which can then be used to activate your UW NetID and check your application status. **Application acknowledgement and NetID activation can take up to 48 hours. For this reason, it is strongly recommended you submit your UW system application by September 9, 2024.**
- Applicants must submit the application by October 1, 2024. All supporting materials must be received by October 15, 2024, to be considered eligible to move to the next stage of the admission process. All transcripts 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.
- Eligible applicants must be admissible to both the university and the Accelerated BSN program requirements.
- University admission notification typically matches the School of Nursing’s admission notification, unless an applicant is deficient in the university’s minimum admission requirements (see section on high school record requirements here). You can check the status of your UW–Madison application with the online application status check tool.

Helpful Materials to Gather Before Starting the Nursing Application

- Transcripts from all institutions
- AP/IB score report, if any

Updated 6.10.24
- List of achievements, work and volunteer experiences, and/or current résumé
- Prerequisite and General Education Course Equivalency Evaluation form, if previously submitted

**Transcripts & AP/IB score reports**

We require all applicants to submit official transcripts to NursingCAS AND to UW-Madison’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment.

AP/IB score reports may be submitted, if applicable. UW-Madison requires the official score report; the unofficial student score report (test taker copy) is sufficient for the School of Nursing via NursingCAS.

**Fall and Spring Term Enrollment**

If you are taking any courses in the fall and spring terms while your Accelerated BSN application is under consideration you need to enter those courses in the transcript entry section under “Academic History” on the NursingCAS application. You can enter courses as planned/in progress. This lets us know you are aware of the courses you need to complete to be eligible to begin the ABSN program.

**Calculating Cumulative and Prerequisite GPAs**

As detailed in the Application Eligibility section, to be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative and a minimum 2.75 prerequisite GPA.

For the **cumulative** GPA:

- We calculate this GPA using all undergraduate college-level coursework completed at all colleges/universities.
- You must have a minimum 2.75 at the time of application (September 16) and again at the end of the Spring 2025 term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program starting in May. If your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.75 after the spring term, your admission to the nursing program will be revoked.
- All course attempts are factored into this calculation including repeated coursework.
- Coursework that is remedial or vocational in nature will not be factored into the equation. This includes Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) coursework.

For the **prerequisite** GPA:

- The 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), so long as the average is a 2.75 or above.
- You must have the minimum 2.75 prerequisite GPA at the time of application (September 16) and again at the end of the Spring 2025 term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program in May. If your prerequisite GPA drops below a 2.75 after the spring term, 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 is more advantageous to the applicant will be used in the calculation.
- If you are taking a prerequisite course during the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 terms after you’ve applied (only permissible with the social science prerequisites), your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on only the prerequisites completed by application deadline (September 16)
- If you are repeating a prerequisite course during the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 terms 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.
- 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, your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on the remaining six prerequisites.
Virtual Group Interview
You will be invited to participate in a virtual group interview after your application has been reviewed and confirmed to have met all the eligibility requirements. More information about what to expect and how to prepare for the interview will be included in the interview invitation sent in October. Interviews are required and applicants will be assigned a date and time in early November. Reschedules will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The group interview will include faculty interviewers and up to four applicants. The interviewers will facilitate the interviews and ask the applicants a series of questions.

Admission Decision Notification
Admission decisions from the university application and Accelerated BSN application will be coordinated to inform candidates of their admission status by the end of December for the Accelerated BSN program starting the subsequent May. Students must be admitted to UW–Madison to be eligible for admission to the nursing program.

Steps After Admission
Students admitted to the nursing program have approximately one month to accept the offer of admission. Students who accept our offer of admission will receive an admission packet via email. This packet contains vital information and required documentation, including:

- **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 deadline.

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

- **Accelerated BSN Preview Day**: applicants who are admitted to the Accelerated BSN program in late December will be invited to attend an Accelerated BSN Preview Day to learn more about the program, typically occurring in mid- to late-January.

- **Welcome Into Nursing (WIN) Day**: This one-day nursing orientation program is mandatory for all admitted students. It typically occurs the week before classes begin in May.

- **White Coat Ceremony**: This early evening event is mandatory for all admitted students. It typically occurs the Thursday before the first day of class in May. Friends and family are invited.

Rescinding Admission
It is possible for an offer of admission to be revoked. We may revoke admission if one of the following occurs:

- you do not complete a prerequisite or general education course
- you earn below a C (2.0) grade in a prerequisite course
- your spring coursework drops your cumulative or prerequisite GPA below the 2.75 minimum
- you do not successfully graduate with your first bachelor’s degree prior starting the Accelerated BSN program
- you provided false or misleading information on your application or compliance documents, or your Caregiver Background Check reveals disqualifying information