

Frequently Asked Questions

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program



College of Nursing

What are the requirements for the nursing program?

To be accepted as a pre-nursing student, students must meet UWM admission standards, have taken a chemistry course in high school, and have a minimum ACT composite of a 19. Additional math and science at the high school level are strongly advised.

Transfer students need to have completed at least 15 credits of transferable coursework with a GPA of 2.5 and have a “B” or higher in any transferable science course. Second Degree students must have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Is the nursing program competitive?

Yes. We do not have enough clinical spots for every student, so students must apply to continue into the professional major. This usually occurs during the sophomore year, but students can apply any semester as long as the prerequisite courses will be completed by the beginning of the major coursework. We accept 72 students in the Fall semester and 112 students in the Spring semester with an average of 160 applications each semester for those spots. Applications are reviewed based on pre-nursing GPA, a reflective statement, and leadership/work/volunteer experience.

Are there any direct admit options?

We have two options for students to be directly admitted into the professional major as freshman.

- **Nursing Honors Cohort:** Pre-nursing students that are invited to join the Honors College apply and interview for a spot in the Cohort. The group is made up of outstanding and determined students who are committed and passionate about becoming leaders in the profession.
- **Nursing Endeavor Program:** Pre-nursing students that are first-generation, minority, or economically disadvantaged are invited to apply to this intensive and integrated learning community. Students must demonstrate a passion for the profession, leadership experience, and a strong work ethic.

What happens if I’m not accepted into the major?

You will sit down with your assigned professional nursing advisor to get feedback on your application. Based on the strengths and weaknesses of your application, your advisor will discuss options for retaking courses, gaining more volunteer experience, or improving writing skills. Most students will decide to apply again the following semester, but some will decide to switch majors or transfer elsewhere.

Do I have to be CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certified?

A CNA license is not required for acceptance into the program. It can be a useful experience for exploring the healthcare field and gaining familiarity with the profession, but students will also have the opportunity to sit for CNA licensure after their junior year in the program.

Can I take my pre-nursing courses at another campus and transfer in?

Yes, many pre-requisite courses have equivalents at other schools. Be sure to work with our transfer advisor, Deatra Holloway, to ensure you are taking the appropriate coursework and preparing for the application into the professional major. You can reach her at hdd@uwm.edu or 414-229-5484. You also have options of completing the entire program at UW-Parkside through our Nursing Consortium Program or your pre-nursing coursework at UW-Washington County.

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