Bachelor of Science in Nursing, B.S.N.

The College of Nursing offers two paths to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.): a prelicensure program for students who do not hold a nursing license (see Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog) and a program for registered nurses (see RN-B.S.N. for Registered Nurses [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog).

The B.S.N. programs prepare students for careers caring for patients in hospitals and in community agencies such as public health services, schools, homes, and industries. They also provide a base for graduate study in nursing.

In addition to combining general education with specialized career preparation, the University of Iowa programs in nursing offer the advantages of full participation in the social, cultural, and recreational activities of a highly diverse campus community. A university education enables students to prepare for a career as well as a life of thought and action informed by knowledge, introspection, and contemplation.

The B.S.N. programs provide a basis for nurses’ roles in wellness and health promotion, in acute care, and in long-term care for chronic illness. The professional nurse may provide care to individuals, families, groups, and communities along a continuum of health, illness, and disability in any sector of the health care system.

In addition to providing care, the nurse serves as a coordinator of health care by organizing and facilitating the delivery of comprehensive, efficient, and appropriate service to individuals, families, groups, and communities. The nurse demonstrates the ability to conceptualize the total continuing health needs of the patient, including legal and ethical aspects of care. The University of Iowa programs' goal is to produce graduates who are competent, committed, creative, and compassionate.

Expenses and Insurance

Students pay University of Iowa student fees throughout the B.S.N. program. They must purchase uniforms, shoes, a stethoscope, and a watch with a full-sweep second hand, and they must pay the cost of computer testing, supplies, and materials for required nursing courses. All nursing students arrange and pay for their own health screening requirements, health insurance, and transportation once they are enrolled in clinical nursing courses. They also pay fees that cover the cost of criminal background checks, laboratory equipment, professional liability insurance, and simulation.

Mandatory Health Insurance

Upon admission to the College of Nursing and each August afterward, all students must provide verification that they have obtained and currently hold health insurance that satisfies the following minimal standards of coverage (or an equivalent alternative health care plan):

- $250,000 lifetime benefit;
- coverage for hospitalization, including coverage for room and board, physician visits, surgeon services, X-ray, and lab services;
- inpatient deductible under an individual policy not exceeding $500 per admission and a 20 percent copayment/coinsurance requirement; and
- coverage for medically necessary care, including physician services, X-ray, and lab services for treatment of emergencies, illness, accident, and injury.

Professional Liability Insurance

All students in the College of Nursing are required to carry professional liability insurance throughout the duration of their program. Agencies that provide clinical practicums for College of Nursing programs require that students have insurance coverage. The College of Nursing provides students with information about the liability insurance requirement during orientation.

B.S.N. prelicensure students and RN-B.S.N. students are covered by a group policy supported by student fees.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing prelicensure program of study requires 128 s.h., including 64 s.h. in the nursing major and 64 s.h. in supporting course work that are prerequisite to the nursing major. The program is intended for students beginning their education in nursing. A B.S.N. program for registered nurses is described under RN-B.S.N. for Registered Nurses [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog.

B.S.N. students may complete their entire program at Iowa, enrolling in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to complete courses that are prerequisite to the nursing major, or they may transfer from an institution that offers comparable prerequisite courses that are approved by the University of Iowa and the College of Nursing. They must earn competitive admission to the College of Nursing once they have completed the prerequisite course work. Highly qualified applicants may be admitted to the College of Nursing directly from high school under the B.S.N. early admission program; see Admission [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog.

Students who are part of the B.S.N. early admission program spend their first four semesters (two years) on prerequisite course work and complete the requirements for the nursing major during the next four semesters (their third and fourth years), earning the B.S.N. in a total of four academic years. Students who earn competitive admission to the College of Nursing have five semesters to complete prerequisite course work. They begin work for the nursing major in spring of their third year and complete the major in four semesters, earning the B.S.N.

University of Iowa students who have declared an interest in the prelicensure nursing program are advised at the University’s Academic Advising Center until they are admitted to the College of Nursing. After admission to the college, each student is assigned a College of Nursing faculty advisor and a professional advisor in the college’s Office of Student Services.

Nursing courses are based on concepts of health, deviations from health, and nursing intervention. Course work progresses in complexity across the curriculum. The curriculum reflects the current trend in health care delivery toward emphasis on nursing as a service provided both inside and outside hospitals. Students have access to clinical experiences selected from a multitude of agencies in Iowa and around the country.

The following course work is required for B.S.N. students.
The B.S.N. prelicensure program requires the following course work. Students must complete the prerequisite course work before beginning work required for the major in nursing.

### Prerequisite Courses

Early admission students complete all of the following prerequisites during their first and second years of enrollment at the University of Iowa. Competitive admission students must complete all of the following prerequisites, with the exception of two natural science courses and two social science courses, before they may apply for admission to the College of Nursing.

#### Code Title Hours

**General Education Prerequisites**

- RHET:1030 Rhetoric 4
- International and Global Issues course 3
- Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts course 3
- Values and Culture or Diversity and Inclusion course 3

**Natural Science Prerequisites**

- ACB:3110 Principles of Human Anatomy 3
- BIOL:1141 Introductory Animal Biology 4
- CHEM:1070 General Chemistry I 3
- CHEM:1080 General Chemistry II 3
- HHP:1300 Fundamentals of Human Physiology 3
- HHP:2310 Nutrition and Health 3
- MICR:3164 Microbiology and Human Health 4

**Social Science Prerequisites**

- NURS:1030 Human Development and Behavior 3
- PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology 3

And one of these:

- SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology 3-4
- SOC:1020 Social Problems 3-4

**Other Prerequisites**

- NURS:3110 Healthcare Finance 3
- MATH:1440 Mathematics for the Biological Sciences 4

**Electives** 12

**Total Hours** 128-129

See B.S.N. Plans of Study on the College of Nursing website for semester-by-semester study plans for early admission and competitive admission students.

### Honors in Nursing

The College of Nursing Honors Program provides seminars and independent study experience for qualified students. In order to pursue honors studies in nursing, students must maintain a University of Iowa g.p.a. and a nursing major g.p.a. of at least 3.50.

The honors program in nursing enables students to explore subject matter based on individual interests, needs, and
goals. It provides opportunities for self-initiative, research experience, scholarly writing, intellectual and personal development, and challenges students to grow and excel. Students who fulfill the requirements of the program graduate with honors in nursing.

In addition to honors in their majors, prelicensure B.S.N. students have a variety of opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

**RN-B.S.N. for Registered Nurses**

The RN-B.S.N. program of study requires 32 s.h. of credit. RN-B.S.N. students must hold a valid Iowa nursing license (RN) and an Associate Degree in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing.

The program is designed to offer registered nurses the opportunity to build on their nursing knowledge and experience by earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. RN-B.S.N. students take courses that focus on professionalism and patient safety, research, improvement of health systems, leadership, professional engagement, and community and public health.

Students may transfer course work completed at other colleges and universities to satisfy the prerequisites, general education requirements, electives, and the world language requirement for admission to the College of Nursing (see "Admission to the RN-B.S.N. Program" under Admission [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog). Once a student is admitted to the RN-B.S.N. program, the student has the option of completing the required 32 s.h. in three semesters or in five semesters.

The RN-B.S.N. program is delivered online, with limited face-to-face meetings for the community health practicum experience and leadership project. Students must complete a practicum experience in Iowa and may be required to drive up to 100 miles to a regional practicum setting.

The College of Nursing participates as a receiving institution in the Iowa Statewide Articulation Plan for Nursing Education: RN to Baccalaureate.

The RN-B.S.N. program requires the following College of Nursing course work.

**Courses Required for the Major**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3110</td>
<td>Healthcare Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3160</td>
<td>Professional Role I: Professionalism and Patient Safety</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3460</td>
<td>Professional Role II: Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3518</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3650</td>
<td>Community and Public Health Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3655</td>
<td>Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3660</td>
<td>Professional Role III: Improving Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3734</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS:4160</td>
<td>Professional Role IV: Leadership and Professional Engagement</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS:4170</td>
<td>Baccalaureate Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:3734</td>
<td>Nursing electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 32

See RN-B.S.N. Plans of Study on the College of Nursing website for semester-by-semester views of required course work for full-time (three semesters) and part-time (five semesters) study.

**Honors in Nursing**

The College of Nursing Honors Program provides seminars and independent study experience for qualified students. In order to pursue honors studies in nursing, students must maintain a University of Iowa g.p.a. and a nursing major g.p.a. of at least 3.50.

The honors program in nursing enables students to explore subject matter based on individual interests, needs, and goals. It provides opportunities for self-initiative, research experience, scholarly writing, intellectual and personal development, and challenges students to grow and excel. Students who fulfill the requirements of the program graduate with honors in nursing.

**Admission**

Students entering the University who are not licensed registered nurses (RN) apply to the B.S.N. program. Registered nurses apply to the RN-B.S.N. program.

All entering first-year and undergraduate transfer students who have earned fewer than 24 s.h. when they apply for admission to the University of Iowa must complete the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). For information about the American College Test, visit the ACT website; for information about the Scholastic Aptitude Test, visit the College Board website.

Applicants to the B.S.N. and RN-B.S.N. programs whose first language is not English must score at least 100 (Internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Registered nurses educated outside the United States are required to present verification of having passed the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination and specified Excelsior baccalaureate nursing examinations.

Applicants admitted to the College of Nursing are expected to be able to meet the curriculum’s performance standards; see “Core Performance Standards” below.

A criminal background check is conducted for all prelicensure and undergraduate students before they begin the nursing major. Admission to all programs is conditional pending successful review of criminal background and abuse registry.

**Admission to the B.S.N. Prelicensure Program**

All applicants to the B.S.N. prelicensure program (early admission applicants and competitive admission applicants) must have satisfied the following minimum high school course requirements.

**English:** four years
Mathematics: three years, including algebra I, algebra II, and geometry
Science: one year of biology, one year of chemistry, and one year of physics
Social science: three years
World languages: four years (fourth-level proficiency) of the same world language or two years (second-level proficiency) in each of two world languages

B.S.N. Early Admission Program: Early Decision Admission/Direct Admission

A select group of highly qualified students are admitted to the College of Nursing directly from high school through the B.S.N. Early Admission Program (EAP). To be considered for the EAP, students must meet the following requirements:

- an ACT composite score of at least 28 or SAT combined score of at least 1310,
- a g.p.a. of at least 3.80, and
- completion of all the minimum high school course requirements listed under "Admission to the B.S.N. Prelicensure Program" above.

Students who lack one of the requirements can submit an application for the early admission program. High school requirements must be satisfied prior to enrollment at the University of Iowa.

Students admitted through the Early Admission Program must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and have clean criminal and student life records during their first four semesters in the program. Students who fail to meet these requirements may be subject to probation or dismissal from the EAP.

B.S.N. Competitive Admission

In order to apply for competitive admission to the College of Nursing, students must:

- have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00;
- have a minimum of 48 s.h. of college credit;
- have completed the minimum high school course requirements listed under "Admission to the B.S.N. Prelicensure Program" above, with any deficiencies satisfied through college course work;
- have completed all B.S.N. prerequisite course work listed under Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p. 1] (a maximum of two natural science prerequisites and two social science prerequisites may be in progress or planned at the time of application); and
- must have a grade of C (2.00) or higher on all prerequisite course work.

In order to enter the College of Nursing, successful competitive admission applicants must:

- maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00;
- have a minimum of 64 s.h. of college credit; and
- have completed any remaining prerequisite course work listed under Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p. 1], including any remaining natural science and/or social science prerequisites.

Successful competitive admission students must complete any remaining natural science prerequisite no more than 10 years before they enter the College of Nursing and enroll in course work for the nursing major.

Admission to the RN-B.S.N. Program

Applicants to the RN-B.S.N. program must hold an RN license and an Associate Degree in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing. They must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Admission is highly competitive, with emphasis on the natural sciences (anatomy, biology, chemistry, microbiology, physiology), writing (composition I and II), and mathematics (statistics).

Applicants must be enrolled in or have completed prerequisite course work at the time of application to the RN-B.S.N. program and additional elective course work before entering the program. They may complete these requirements at a community college.

World language is not an admission requirement.

Technical Standards

Applicants to the College of Nursing are expected to be capable of completing the entire nursing curriculum and of earning a B.S.N. degree. Nursing is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. The college's technical standards provide an objective measure on which to base informed decisions about whether individual students will be able to participate in the nursing program. Technical standards also help students determine whether they will need accommodations or modifications in order to participate.

The technical standards are provided to all students before matriculation and are available online in the B.S.N. Student Handbook; see Section VIII: Clinical Course and Health Science Student Requirements. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need assistance in meeting the core performance standards should contact Student Disability Services.

Selection

The college's admission committee recommends to the dean the applicants who appear to be best qualified. Fulfillment of minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the College of Nursing. The committee may require personal interviews. A physical examination report and specific health screening requirements must be on file at University of Iowa Student Health & Wellness 10 days before the class opens for the first clinical nursing course.

Application Deadlines

B.S.N. prelicensure early admission: January 1 for fall entry
B.S.N. prelicensure competitive admission: April 1 for spring entry
RN-B.S.N. program: March 1 for fall entry; September 1 for spring entry

Financial Support

In addition to general assistance available to University students, there are assistance programs specifically for nursing students. Information about financial aid is available from the University's Office of Student Financial Aid.
Career Advancement

The University of Iowa’s B.S.N. program provides broad preparation in clinical, scientific, community health, and patient education skills, and promises outstanding career options. With a B.S.N. degree, students are eligible to work as a staff nurse; flight nurse; a nurse on medical, oncology, surgical, pediatric, emergency, or intensive care units; a nurse in outpatient or neighborhood clinics; or a home health care nurse.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment for registered nurses will grow faster than most other occupations through 2020.