

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BSN

The College of Nursing offers two paths to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN): a prelicensure program for students who do not hold a nursing license (see the Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p. 1] in this section of the catalog) and a program for registered nurses (see Nursing–RN [p. 3] in this section of the catalog).

The BSN 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 advantage 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 BSN 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 BSN 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

BSN prelicensure students upon admission to the College of Nursing and each August afterward 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% copayment/coinsurance requirement; and

- coverage for medically necessary care, including physician services, X-ray, and lab services for the 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. BSN prelicensure students and nursing–RN students are covered by a group policy supported by student fees.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) will be able to:

- ensure delivery of safe, quality nursing care to diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations throughout the lifespan and across systems of care;
- integrate theoretical and scientific knowledge gained from natural and social sciences, and culture, society, and the liberal arts into nursing;
- demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills across systems of care to promote quality health outcomes;
- use the best evidence from multiple ways of knowing to inform practice to make clinical judgments, solve problems, and address system improvements;
- use effective interprofessional communication and collaboration strategies to promote quality health outcomes;
- apply health promotion and disease prevention strategies to diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations to promote quality health outcomes; and
- demonstrate professional values fundamental to the discipline of nursing.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing prelicensure program of study requires a minimum of 128 s.h., including 64 s.h. in the nursing major and 64 s.h. in supporting coursework that is a prerequisite to the nursing major. The program is intended for students beginning their education in nursing. A BSN program for registered nurses is described under Nursing–RN [p. 3] in this section of the catalog. All students must earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 to earn the degree.

BSN students may complete their entire program at Iowa, enrolling in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to complete courses that are prerequisites 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 standard admission to the College of Nursing once they have completed the prerequisite coursework. Highly qualified applicants may be admitted to the College of Nursing directly from high school under the BSN direct admission program; see Admission [p. 4] in this section of the catalog.

Students who are part of the BSN direct admission program spend their first four semesters (two years) on prerequisite coursework and complete the requirements for the nursing major during the next four semesters (their third and fourth years), earning the BSN in a total of four academic years. Students who earn standard admission to the College of Nursing have five semesters to complete prerequisite

coursework. They begin work for the nursing major in the spring of their third year and complete the major in four semesters, earning the BSN degree.

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 professional advisor in the college's Felton Student Success Center.

Nursing courses are based on concepts of health, deviations from health, and nursing intervention. Coursework progresses in complexity across the curriculum. The curriculum reflects the current trend in health care delivery toward an 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 coursework is required for BSN students.

Requirements	Hours
General Education Prerequisites	13
Natural Science Prerequisites	23
Social Science Prerequisites	9-10
Other Prerequisites	19
Courses Required for the Major	64

The BSN prelicensure program requires the following coursework. Students must complete the prerequisite coursework before beginning the work required for the major in nursing.

Prerequisite Courses

All of the following prerequisites must be completed prior to enrolling in the nursing major courses. Any high school deficiencies must be completed or satisfied with collegiate coursework. Students work with their academic advisor to ensure these requirements are complete.

General Education Prerequisites

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
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

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
ACB:3110	Principles of Human Anatomy	3
BIOL:1141	Human Biology: Health Professions	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

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
NURS:1030	Human Development and Behavior	3
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology	3
And one of these:		
SOC:1010	Introduction to Sociology	3-4
SOC:1030	Contemporary Social Problems	3-4

Other Prerequisites

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
NURS:3111	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Health Professions	3
STAT:1020/ PSQF:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
Electives		13

Courses Required for the Major

Direct and standard admission students complete the following courses for the major in nursing.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
NURS:3128	Health Assessment and Communication Across the Lifespan	3
NURS:3138	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions I	5
NURS:3151	Introduction to Clinical Concepts for Nursing	2
NURS:3160	Professional Role I: Professionalism and Patient Safety	3
NURS:3438	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions II	5
NURS:3451	Basic Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1
NURS:3460	Professional Role II: Research	3
NURS:3518	Pathology	3
NURS:3615	Adult Medical/Surgical Nursing Practicum	3
NURS:3620	Gerontological Nursing	3
NURS:3625	Gerontological Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3631	Nursing Care of Children and Families	2
NURS:3632	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	2
NURS:3635	Parent Child Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3640	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS:3645	Mental Health Nursing Practicum	2

NURS:3650	Community and Public Health Nursing	3
NURS:3651	Advanced Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1
NURS:3655	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3660	Professional Role III: Improving Health Systems	3
NURS:4155	Senior Nursing Internship	5
NURS:4160	Professional Role IV: Leadership and Professional Engagement	3
Electives		3
Total Hours		64

See BSN-Plans of Study and Prerequisite Information on the College of Nursing website for semester-by-semester study plans for direct and standard 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 GPA and a nursing major GPA 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, and intellectual and personal development, and it 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 BSN 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.

Nursing-RN

The nursing-RN program of study requires 32 s.h. of credit. Students must hold a valid Iowa nursing license (RN) and an Associate Degree in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing. They must earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 to earn the degree.

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. 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 coursework completed at other colleges and universities to satisfy the prerequisites, general education requirements, and electives for admission to the College of Nursing (see "Admission to the Nursing-RN Program" under Admission [p. 4] in this section of the catalog). Once a student is admitted to the program, the student has the option of completing the required 32 s.h. in three semesters, four semesters, or in five semesters.

The 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 or an immersion experience in Eswatini, Africa, 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 nursing-RN program requires the following College of Nursing coursework.

Courses Required for the Major

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:3111	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Health Professions	3
NURS:3160	Professional Role I: Professionalism and Patient Safety	3
NURS:3460	Professional Role II: Research	3
NURS:3518	Pathology	3
NURS:3650	Community and Public Health Nursing	3
NURS:3655	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3660	Professional Role III: Improving Health Systems	3
NURS:3734	Introduction to Human Genetics	3
NURS:4160	Professional Role IV: Leadership and Professional Engagement	5
NURS:4170	Baccalaureate Seminar	1
Nursing electives		3
Total Hours		32

See RN-B.S.N. Plans of Study on the College of Nursing website for semester-by-semester views of required coursework for full-time (three semesters) and part-time (four or five semesters) study for fall and spring entry.

Honors in Nursing

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Nursing-RN/3+1 Agreements

Agreements with Area Community Colleges in Iowa

The nursing-RN program at the College of Nursing has RN to BSN 3+1 agreements with area community colleges in Iowa for qualifying nursing graduates to seamlessly transfer to the UI College of Nursing to finish their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in one year. Under the 3+1 structure,

nursing students stay in their three-year program at a community college and then complete the BSN degree in one year (three semesters).

The nursing–RN program at the College of Nursing provides access to baccalaureate education for nurses throughout the state. The 3+1 partnership provides enhanced opportunities for unparalleled leadership experience while allowing students to continue working in their communities as they complete their degree.

See RN to BSN 3+1 on the College of Nursing website for the agreements with multiple higher education institutions around the state of Iowa.

Combined Programs

Nursing–RN/DNP

Students in the RN subprogram of the BSN who are interested in earning a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, health systems, or pediatric nurse practitioner–primary care subprogram may apply to the combined program offered by the College of Nursing. For information about the DNP degree, see the Doctor of Nursing Practice, DNP in the catalog.

See RN–BSN Plans of Study on the College of Nursing website for semester-by-semester views of required coursework for Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) Nursing–RN/DNP study for fall and spring entry.

Admission

Students entering the university who are not licensed registered nurses (RN) apply to the BSN prelicensure program. Registered nurses apply to the RN–BSN 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 BSN and RN–BSN 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 "Technical 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 BSN Prelicensure Program

All applicants to the BSN prelicensure program (direct and standard 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 two different world languages; or two years of the same world language plus one 3 s.h. course from the GE CLAS Core International and Global Issues, Values and Culture, or Diversity and Inclusion.

BSN Direct Admission

A select group of highly qualified students is admitted to the College of Nursing directly from high school through the BSN Direct Admission Program. To be considered for direct admission, students must meet the following requirements:

- a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.80, and
- completion of all the minimum high school course requirements listed under "Admission to the BSN Prelicensure Program" above.

High school requirements must be satisfied prior to enrollment at the University of Iowa.

Students admitted through the Direct Admission Program must maintain a cumulative GPA 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 College of Nursing.

BSN Standard Admission

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

- have a cumulative GPA 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 BSN Prelicensure Program" above, with any deficiencies satisfied through college coursework;
- have completed all BSN prerequisite coursework listed under the 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 coursework.

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

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

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

Admission to the Nursing-RN Program

Applicants to the program must hold an RN license and an Associate Degree in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing. They must have a cumulative GPA 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). 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 earning a BSN 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 Bachelor of Science in Nursing 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 10 days before the class opens for the first clinical nursing course.

Application Deadlines

- BSN prelicensure direct admission: Jan. 15.
- BSN prelicensure standard admission: March 1.
- Nursing-RN (RN to BSN) program: March 1 for fall entry; Sept. 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 BSN program provides broad preparation in clinical, scientific, community health, and patient education skills, and promises outstanding career options. With a BSN 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 to be among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2029.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Nursing, BSN

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Meeting the minimum requirements for admission does not guarantee admission. Direct Admission is available only for high school students who meet the published criteria. All other students pursue Standard Admission. ^a		
All courses (except electives ^b) must be completed with a grade of C or higher.		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	4
CHEM:1070	General Chemistry I	3
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology	3
STAT:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
NURS:1020	First-Year Seminar	1
Elective course		1
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		17
Spring		
CHEM:1080	General Chemistry II	3
BIOL:1141	Human Biology: Health Professions	4
NURS:1030	Human Development and Behavior ^c	3
SOC:1030 or SOC:1010	Contemporary Social Problems or Introduction to Sociology	3
GE: International and Global Issues ^d		3
Elective course		1
3.0 minimum cumulative GPA required		
Hours		17
Second Year		
Fall		
ACB:3110	Principles of Human Anatomy	3
HHP:2310	Nutrition and Health	3
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d		3
GE: Values and Culture or Diversity and Inclusion ^{d, e}		3
Elective course		3
Elective course		1
3.0 minimum cumulative GPA required		
Hours		16
Spring		
NURS:3111	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Health Professions ^{c, f}	3

MICR:3164	Microbiology and Human Health ^c	4
HHP:1300	Fundamentals of Human Physiology	3
Major: elective course (preferred upper level statistics) ^g		3
Elective course		3
Elective course		1
3.0 minimum cumulative GPA required		
Minimum 64 s.h. credit earned toward degree at end of second year (67 s.h. preferred) with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.		

Hours	17
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Third Year

Fall

NURS:3138	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions I	5
NURS:3128	Health Assessment and Communication Across the Lifespan	3
NURS:3518	Pathology ^f	3
NURS:3160	Professional Role I: Professionalism and Patient Safety ^f	3
NURS:3151	Introduction to Clinical Concepts for Nursing	2

Hours	16
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Spring

NURS:3438	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions II	5
NURS:3615	Adult Medical/Surgical Nursing Practicum	3
NURS:3620	Gerontological Nursing	3
NURS:3625	Gerontological Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3460	Professional Role II: Research ^f	3
NURS:3451	Basic Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1

Hours	17
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Fourth Year

Fall

NURS:3631	Nursing Care of Children and Families	2
NURS:3632	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	2
NURS:3635	Parent Child Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3640	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS:3645	Mental Health Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3660	Professional Role III: Improving Health Systems ^f	3
NURS:3651	Advanced Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1

Hours	15
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Spring

NURS:3650	Community and Public Health Nursing ^f	3
NURS:3655	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum ^f	2
NURS:4155	Senior Nursing Internship	5
NURS:4160	Professional Role IV: Leadership and Professional Engagement ^f	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Exam: NCLEX (upon completion of the program students are eligible to sit for this board exam)

Hours	13
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Total Hours	128
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- a See the College of Nursing website for further details and application instructions.
- b A grade of C or higher is required. A grade of C-minus is not considered a passing grade for the College of Nursing.
- c Typically this course is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
- d GE courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- e Choose either a course that fulfills the Diversity and Inclusion GE or a course that fulfills the Values and Culture GE.
- f Register for on-campus section.
- g Recommended. If considering graduate studies please contact your desired school to learn about the statistics requirements.
- h Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.