Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BSN

Admission

Students entering the university who are not registered nurses (RN) apply to the BSN prelicensure program. Registered nurses apply to the nursing–RN (RN–BSN) program.

International students seeking admission into the College of Nursing as a first-year or transfer student, who are citizens of a country in which English is not the official language, must score at least 100 (internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

University of Iowa students who have not earned admission to the College of Nursing must present a minimum iBT of 80 with no subscore lower than 17, and complete the English Proficiency Evaluation (unless they have a TOEFL score of 100 or higher on the iBT). Students may be required to complete English as a Second Language course work if specified as a result of the English Proficiency Evaluation. If such course work is required, it must be completed prior to the start of the nursing major.

Due to the level of web-based coursework required, international students in the RN–BSN program are not eligible for F-1 or J-1 student immigration status. Questions regarding visas and immigration documentation should be directed to International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

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; visit the section titled "Technical Standards."

A criminal background check is conducted for all prelicensure and undergraduate students before they begin the nursing major. Matriculation and progression in nursing programs may be contingent upon maintaining a clear criminal background and abuse registry.

Admission to the BSN Prelicensure Program

All applicants to the BSN prelicensure program (direct and standard admission applicants) whose first degree-seeking session is fall 2026 or later must have satisfied the following minimum high school course requirements. Students pursuing standard admission who do not meet the high school requirements should refer to the section titled "High School Deficiencies" that follows.

- English: four years.
- Mathematics: three years, including algebra I, algebra II, and geometry.
- Science: one full year of biology, chemistry, and physics in each subject.
- 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.

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:

- high school 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."

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 remain in good standing during their first four semesters at the University of Iowa. 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 minimum college cumulative GPA of at least 3.00;
- have a minimum of 48 s.h. of college credit at the end of application semester;
- have completed the minimum high school course requirements listed under "Admission to the BSN Prelicensure Program," with any deficiencies satisfied through college coursework; and
- have a grade of C or higher on all prerequisite coursework.

High School Deficiencies

Although it is not a required prerequisite, students may need to complete CHEM:1070 General Chemistry I.

Students who have not completed physics in high school should complete PHYS:1200 Physics of Everyday Experience or PHYS:1400 Basic Physics.

Students who have not completed fourth-level proficiency (four years) of the same world language or second-level proficiency (two years) in two different world languages must do so at the college level. Alternatively, they may complete two years of the same world language plus one 3 s.h. course from the following GE CLAS Core areas: International and Global Issues, Values and Society, Understanding Cultural Perspectives, or World Languages and Cultural Exploration.

Coursework Completed Prior to Application

Students must have completed the following coursework with a grade of C or higher. Comparable courses may also be accepted; refer to "Prerequisite Courses" under the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. All natural sciences coursework must have been completed within 10 years of enrollment in the nursing major.

Course #	Title	Hours
Natural Sciences		
Both of these:		

CHEM:1080	General Chemistry II	3
BIOL:1141	Human Biology: Health Professions	4
At least one of these:		
HHP:2100	Human Anatomy	3
HHP:2310	Nutrition and Health	3
HHP:2400	Fundamentals of Human Physiology	3
MICR:3164	Microbiology and Human Health	4
Social Science		
At least one of these:		
NURS:1030	Human Development and Behavior	3
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology	3
SOC:1010	Introduction to Sociology	3-4

Enrollment Requirements

If admitted to the College of Nursing, successful standard admission applicants must:

- maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00;
- have a minimum of 60 s.h. of college credit; and
- have completed, with a C or higher, all requirements listed under "Prerequisite Courses" on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p.] curriculum, and must have completed all degree requirements except nursing courses, prior to enrollment/matriculation in the nursing major courses.

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. World language is not an admission requirement.

Admission is seamless for applicants participating in the RN to BSN 3+1 agreements with area community colleges in Iowa. If students have a 3.00 cumulative GPA and have met all prerequisite requirements, admission is granted into Iowa's RN-BSN program. If students have not met the minimum GPA requirement, they are still encouraged to apply but admission is not guaranteed.

Admission is more competitive for applicants that do not participate in the RN to BSN 3+1 agreements with area community colleges. An emphasis is placed on the natural sciences (anatomy, biology, microbiology, physiology), writing (composition I and II), and mathematics (statistics). Students who have met all prerequisites and have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 are still encouraged to apply, but admission is not guaranteed. If students have not met the minimum GPA requirement, they are also still encouraged to apply with admission not being guaranteed. Applications will be reviewed and admission decisions will be made on an individual basis.

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; visit 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.

Specific health screening requirements must be on file at University of Iowa Student Health prior to beginning the nursing program. In addition, a physical examination screening report and other nursing clinical compliance requirements must be on file at the Felton Student Success Center, prior to beginning the nursing program. A listing of all clinical course and health science student requirements are provided to all students before matriculation and are available online in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Handbook; visit Section VIII: Clinical Course and Health Science Student Requirements.

Application Deadlines

- BSN prelicensure direct admission
- BSN prelicensure standard admission
- Nursing–RN (RN to BSN) program (admission occurs fall and spring)