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 (visit the Bachelor of Science in Nursing [p.] in this section of the catalog) and a program for registered nurses (visit Nursing–RN [p.] 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.

Programs designed to lead to professional licensure are subject to federal regulations regarding informational disclosures. Please visit Professional Licensure Disclosures by Program for further information.

Learning Outcomes

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

- deliver evidence-based, safe nursing care to individuals, families, and communities in a variety of settings across diverse populations;
- integrate effective use of informatics and health care technologies in accordance with ethical, legal, professional, and regulatory standards to improve health outcomes;
- apply health promotion and disease prevention strategies to diverse communities and populations across the lifespan to promote quality health outcomes;
- develop a professional identity in nursing through knowledge, values and ethics, nurse as leader, and professional behaviors;
- demonstrate how policy, regulation, resources allocation and stewardship impact professional nursing practice and population health outcomes;
- use interprofessional communication and collaboration with patients, families, communities, and healthcare professionals to promote patient safety and improve health outcomes;
- advocate as leaders for patients, the nursing profession, and evidence-based care across the health care continuum; and
- apply knowledge from the natural, social sciences, and liberal arts to deliver safe, equitable care to improve health outcomes.

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

Upon admission to the College of Nursing and each August after, BSN prelicensure 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% 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.