

Nursing

Department Information

- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/nursing/ (<http://www.ndsu.edu/nursing/>)
- **Credential Offered:**
B.S.N.
- **Official Program Curriculum:**
catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/nursing/ (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/nursing/>)

North Dakota State University offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The professional program is offered at the NDSU Fargo site and NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. Graduates are eligible to apply for the national licensing examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse (RN). The program is fully accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education and approved by the North Dakota Board of Nursing.

The Program

The mission of the School of Nursing is to advance nursing knowledge and develop dynamic nurse leaders who improve the health of all people, emphasizing underserved, rural, and diverse populations. The nursing curriculum prepares professional nurses by providing a sound educational base for practice, graduate study, professional development, and professional and civic responsibility. The nursing program serves as a resource for society through consultation, collaboration, advocacy, and scholarship.

Career Opportunities

Rapid changes in health care and technology require the nursing profession to continually expand its role. Employment forecasts predict an increasing demand for professional nurses. Career opportunities for a nurse with a BSN include positions in hospitals, schools, community agencies, the military, insurance companies, nursing homes, clinics, businesses, and research settings. Graduates are prepared to work in a variety of settings that demand critical thinking, autonomy, collaboration, and accountability. A BSN degree offers an array of career options and opportunities for career advancement.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Numerous active student organizations are available at NDSU, including Student Nurses Association chapters in Bismarck and Fargo. Nursing students are strongly encouraged to participate in campus activities because they provide opportunities for teamwork, leadership, service, and enjoyment.

Scholarships

Information on scholarships for students admitted to the major is available from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and the School of Nursing. Information on first year or transfer student scholarships is available from the Office of Admission.

The Faculty and Facilities

The NDSU BSN program is offered at two locations: the NDSU Fargo site and NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. At the NDSU Fargo site, students will find faculty offices and state-of-the-art, hands-on nursing education labs in the six-story Aldevron Tower. Additional classrooms are found in Sudro Hall, connected to Aldevron Tower. In Bismarck, the School of Nursing is conveniently located across the street from Sanford Medical Center. The School houses faculty offices, classrooms, and fully equipped skills and health assessment labs, as well as an advanced simulation center to enhance student learning. The Fargo-Moorhead and Bismarck communities provide a rich source of health care facilities, which are utilized by the nursing program. The faculty members are experts in specialized clinical practice areas and assist students with learning in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Advising

The School of Nursing is part of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Pre-nursing advising is available for all students prior to acceptance into the professional program. Each nursing student admitted to the professional program is assigned a nursing faculty advisor who is available for academic guidance, assistance, and career planning. Students are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of their advisor early in their plan of study and maintain contact on a regular basis.

Transfer

The pre-professional courses may be completed at NDSU or at another regionally accredited college or university. Transfer students are encouraged to contact a pre-nursing advisor early to discuss course selection and transferability. All of the professional nursing classes are completed in sequence and cannot be accelerated due to clinical placements. The pre-licensure professional program takes three years to complete. The LPN-BSN and RN-BSN program both take two years to complete. The Accelerated (Post-Baccalaureate) is just over fourteen months in length.

Admission to the Pre-Licensure Program

Direct Admission

Direct admission is offered to high school seniors who have demonstrated exemplary academic performance. Direct admission is available at both the Bismarck and Fargo sites. Applications are due December 15. If offered direct admission, students will complete the freshman year prerequisite courses. Students must maintain established progression criteria during their first year of coursework. If program criteria are met, students begin the professional nursing program in their second year. Students not admitted through direct admission, or who do not maintain progression requirements, can apply through the standard admission process. Additional information as well as the admission application can be found at https://www.ndsu.edu/nursing/degrees/pre_licensure_bsn_track/direct_admin/.

Standard Admission

The School of Nursing in Bismarck accepts applications and admits students for both fall and spring semesters. On the Fargo site, applications are accepted once per year for students starting the program in both fall and spring. To be eligible for application, students must meet the following requirements: 1) a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75* on all college level work, and 2) completion of the prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or higher. The application deadlines and online application are posted on the School of Nursing website (https://www.ndsu.edu/nursing/degrees/pre_licensure_bsn_track/admission/). Admission is competitive and involves a holistic review process. The holistic review considers a student's life experiences, personal qualities, and attributes, as well as traditional measures such as GPA. Students are encouraged to consult with the pre-nursing advisor at their preferred site prior to the application deadline. **Because of limitations on class size, the typical student admitted to the nursing program has a selective GPA higher than 2.75.*

Selected Prerequisite Courses

The selected GPA is calculated based on grades in the following prerequisite courses. (Applicants may have prerequisite courses in progress at the time of application.)

- Communication 110: Fundamentals of Public Speaking
- English 120: College Composition II
- Psychology 111: Introduction to Psychology
- Sociology 110: Introduction to Sociology *or* Anthropology 111: Introduction to Anthropology

A minimum of 8 credits in the science category (preference will be given to those students who have completed 11 credits or more.)

- Biology 220/220L: Human Anatomy and Physiology I/Lab
- Biology 221/ 221L: Human Anatomy and Physiology II/Lab
- Biochemistry 260: Elements of Biochemistry (An equivalent course is Chem 116: Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry)
- Chemistry 117/117L: Chemistry Concepts and Applications/Lab (An equivalent course is Chem 115/115L: Introductory Chemistry and Lab)
- Microbiology 202/202L: Introductory Microbiology/Lab

Note:

- Students should consult their faculty advisor for electives to enhance their program of study and to meet graduation requirements.
- Computer proficiency is expected before beginning the nursing major.
- Disclaimer: The recommended curriculum is subject to change based on nursing program development. Students must consult with their nursing advisor to facilitate progression in the program.

Advancing to a BSN from an LPN or RN

NDSU offers two tracks for nurses who are licensed as either a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or a registered nurse (RN).

The NDSU School of Nursing offers individual, personalized advising to all students prior to and once accepted in the professional programs. NDSU accepts courses from Regional Accredited Colleges and Universities.

LPN to BSN

The LPN to BSN program is designed for a licensed practical nurse (LPN) seeking to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Graduates are then eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Coursework in the professional program is completed on a part-time basis (approx. 6 nursing credits a semester) over the length of two years (including summers). Courses are delivered online with clinical work completed in a variety of Fargo locations during the summer semesters. The curriculum builds on students' prior knowledge to develop critical thinking, theoretical knowledge, leadership, and growth in the RN professional role.

Admission Requirements for LPN-BSN

1. Completion of the NLN NACE (RN-BSN) Exams are required prior to applying to the professional program.
2. Admission to NDSU (it is recommended the application be submitted by Sept. 1st for spring start). Note: Admission to NDSU is not required to complete the validation exams (NACE exams).
3. Completed Application, which is sent to students after passing the NACE exams. Application deadline: Oct. 15th.
4. Professional Nursing Program Requirements
 - a. NLN NACE exams must be completed with passing score prior to applying to the professional program.
 - b. Graduate with a Diploma or Certificate in Nursing or an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing.
 - c. Cumulative GPA of a 2.75 or greater and a Nursing GPA of 3.0 or greater.
 - d. The completion of the following courses with a "C" or higher:
 - Biology 220/2201 & 221/2211: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab
 - Microbiology 202/202L: Introduction to Microbiology
 - English 120: College Composition II
 - Communications 110: Fundamentals of Public Speaking
 - Psychology 250: Developmental Psychology
 - Sociology 110: Introduction to Sociology
5. Current unencumbered nursing license as a Licensed Practical Nurse or must be able to obtain license by May and will be admitted on probation pending licensure.

RN TO BSN

The RN to BSN program is designed for registered nurses who want to advance to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The two-year one hundred percent online program is geared for part-time students. Coursework focuses on the current health care system/environment, quality and safety, evidence-based practice, population-focused nursing, leadership and chronic health issues. The program is intended to educate nurses to practice with a transformed perspective, having a better understanding of themselves and the complex environment in which nurse's work.

Admission Requirements for RN-BSN

1. Admission to NDSU.
2. Completion of an associate of science in nursing or an associate of applied science in nursing.
3. Current unencumbered nurse license (RN).
4. Cumulative GPA of 2.75.
5. Transcripts from all post-secondary schools attended.
6. Completed School of Nursing application including personal statement and background check.
7. Interview upon request.

Demonstrated Competency Credits for RN-BSN

- 18 demonstrated competency credits will be awarded upon completion of the first semester to students who have earned an Associates of Applied Science Degree.
- 25 demonstrated competency credits will be awarded upon completion of the first semester to students who have earned an Associates of Science Degree.

The NDSU Online/Blended Accelerated (Post-Baccalaureate) BSN Nursing Program offers an opportunity to quickly build a path to a nursing degree. The Accelerated (Post-Baccalaureate) BSN Program is offered through the NDSU School of Nursing at Sanford Health site in Bismarck, North Dakota. Through this program, students build upon their prior bachelor's or graduate degree to accelerate into an in-demand opportunity in nursing.

The program will prepare students to become highly-skilled, compassionate nurses, and assist in meeting statewide healthcare workforce needs. The blended program includes in-person classes, with some online classes. Students are expected to attend all lab and clinical experiences in person.

Admission Requirements for Accelerated (Post Baccalaureate) BSN

1. Apply and be admitted to North Dakota State University (NDSU) or currently be an NDSU student.
2. Have a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a non-nursing major from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university. The degree must be completed and verified via official transcript(s) prior to enrollment in the program.
3. Cumulative GPA of a 2.75 or greater.
4. Complete the Accelerated (Post-Baccalaureate) BSN application.
5. Complete a Criminal Background Check (See College of Health Professions Policy 3.08).
 - a. Fee paid by applicant via the school designated vendor.

For more information go to: https://www.ndsu.edu/nursing/degrees/accelerated_bsn/standard_accel_admit/

Sample Program Guide

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: This guide is not an official curriculum. This guide is a sample four-year degree plan of how students might plan this major with other degree requirements to complete their education in four years. Student plans will vary from this sample due to a variety of factors, such as, but not limited to, start year, education goals, transfer credit, and course availability. To ensure proper degree completion, enrolled students should utilize Degree Map (<https://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/degreemap/>) and Schedule Planner (<https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/degree-map-and-planning/>) in Campus Connection and consult regularly with academic advisors to ensure graduation requirements are being met.

Plan of Study: Pre-Licensure Fall Start Professional Program

Freshman			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 110		3 ENGL 120	3
CHEM 117		3 BIOC 260	4
CHEM 117L		1 COMM 110	3
SOC 110 or ANTH 111		3 PSYC 111	3
PHIL 257		3 MICR 202	2
NURS 150		1 MICR 202L	1
		14	16
Sophomore			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 220		3 BIOL 221	3
BIOL 220L		1 BIOL 221L	1
PSYC 250		3 HNES 250	3
NURS 301		3 NURS 321	3
NURS 306		3 NURS 360	4
Free Elective		3	
		16	14
Junior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 325		3 NURS 352	4
NURS 341		3 NURS 362	4
NURS 342		5 NURS 382	4
NURS 300		4 Free Elective	3
		15	15
Senior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NURS 402		4 NURS 404	4
NURS 403		5 NURS 406	4
NURS 410		2 NURS 450	4
NURS 460		3 Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts/Glob Perspectives	3
Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts/Cult Diversity		3	
		17	15
Total Credits: 122			

Pre-Licensure Spring Start Professional Program

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 110		3 ENGL 120	3
NURS 150		1 MICR 202	2
CHEM 117		3 MICR 202L	1
CHEM 117L		1 PSYC 111	3
SOC 110 or ANTH 111		3 BIOC 260	4
PHIL 257		3	
		14	13
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 220		3 NURS 301	3
BIOL 220L		1 NURS 306	3
PSYC 250		3 BIOL 221	3
Elective		3 BIOL 221L	1
COMM 110		3 HNES 250	3
		Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts/Cult Div	3
		13	16
Third Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NURS 321		3 ENGL 325	3
NURS 360		4 NURS 341	3
Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts/Glob Persp		3 NURS 342	5
Free Elective		3 NURS 300	4
		13	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NURS 352		4 NURS 402	4
NURS 362		4 NURS 403	5
NURS 382		4 NURS 410	2
		NURS 460	3
		12	14
Fifth Year			
Fall	Credits		
NURS 404		4	
NURS 406		4	
NURS 450		4	
		12	
Total Credits: 122			

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LPN to BSN Program

- PN Program Transfer Credits = 40-60 credits
- Total Credits for a degree must = 120
- Nursing Validation (17 credits): NURS 362 Family Nursing II, NURS 352 Family Nursing I, NURS 402 Mental Health Nursing, NURS 403 Adult Health Nursing II

Second Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits		
BIOL 220		3 BIOL 221	3		
BIOL 220L		1 BIOL 221L	1		
PSYC 250		3 SOC 110	3		
Humanities/Fine Arts & Global Perspectives		3 Humanities/Fine Arts & Cultural Diversity	3		
		10	10		
Third Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
CHEM 117		3 NURS 305		3 ENGL 325	3
CHEM 117L		1 NURS 360		4 NURS 307	3
MICR 202		2 BIOC 260		4 NURS 420	3
MICR 202L		1			
		7	11		9
Fourth Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
NURS 372		2 NURS 407		3 NURS 406	4
NURS 374		2 NURS 463		4 NURS 407L	3
NURS 405		2		HNES 250	3
PSYC 111		3			
		9	7		10
Fifth Year					
Fall	Credits				
NURS 450		4			
		4			

Total Credits: 77

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RN to BSN Program

- Total Credits for a degree = 120
- RN Program Transfer Credits = approximately 60 credits
- 60 credits toward degree must be earned from a four-year degree granting institution

- Competency credits will count toward this requirement
- Demonstrated Competency Credits = 18 with an earned Associates of Applied Science **OR** 25 with an Associate of Science

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NURS 326		1 NURS 346	1
NURS 356		3 NURS 366	3
NURS 420		3 NURS 386	3
		7	7
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NURS 426		1 NURS 456	1
NURS 446		3 NURS 462	3
NURS 446L		1 NURS 462L	1
ENGL 325		3 NURS 478	3
		8	8

Total Credits: 30

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Accelerated BSN

This program is for those who have completed a non-nursing bachelor's degree or have completed a graduate degree.

First Year					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
NURS 300		4 NURS 342		5 NURS 402	4
NURS 303		3 NURS 352		4 NURS 430	6
NURS 323		4 NURS 362		4	
NURS 360		4 NURS 463		4	
NURS 420		3			
		18		17	10
Second Year					
Fall	Credits				
NURS 406		4			
NURS 450		4			
		8			

Total Credits: 53