

NURSING, B.S.N.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, University Park, Scranton

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing prepares students to become professional practitioners in areas of health promotion and maintenance, illness care, and rehabilitation. After earning this degree in Nursing, students are qualified to take the registered nurse examination for licensure by the State Board of Nursing.

B.S.N. Nursing majors will choose one of the following options:

General Nursing Option (NURS GNURS)

Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, University Park

Students who begin the General Nursing Option at University Park must complete the degree at University Park.

Students may begin the General Nursing Option at any campus if they will complete the degree at Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, or Scranton.

The General Nursing Option admits first year students directly to the major at six Penn State campuses (University Park, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill or Scranton) for summer or fall entry. Nursing students start and remain at the campus of admission all four years. University Park students spend one full academic year at Penn State Hershey Medical Center campus, which requires students to reside at that location.

Non-nursing students may not transfer or change major into the 4-year nursing program at University Park, but may apply through a competitive Entrance to Major Review process at the five other campuses offering the General Nursing Program.

Clinical experiences occur at clinical facilities within a 50-mile radius of campus.

Second Degree Option (NURS SCND)

Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Harrisburg

Students start and remain at the campus of admission for the entire program (Altoona or Harrisburg)

This option admits students who have successfully completed a bachelor's degree in another discipline to the Nursing major through a competitive Entrance to Major Review process. Students must have met all prerequisite course requirements.

Students start and remain at the campus of admission for the entire program.

Clinical experiences occur at facilities within a 50-mile radius of the campus.

For Both Options

All transportation and expenses related to clinical are the responsibility of the student. Students must carry professional liability insurance; complete an annual examination including required vaccinations, criminal

background and child abuse history clearance and drug testing; maintain CPR certification; and adhere to any additional requirements of the clinical facilities. Graduates of this major may qualify for admission to a graduate nursing program.

Undergraduate Academic Progression Policy

The Academic Progression Policy delineates academic standards for pre-licensure students (students without R.N. license). Two failed attempts in nursing courses or two failed attempts in any given prerequisite course results in dismissal from the Nursing major. Details of the academic progression policy are available in the student handbook (<https://www.nursing.psu.edu/student-handbooks/>).

What is Nursing?

Nurses serve on the front lines of the health care industry. They work in emergency rooms, outpatient clinics, inpatient facilities, schools and private homes. As the cornerstone of the medical team, nurses assess and monitor patients' body systems, symptoms and vital signs; administer prescribed medications; and provide routine care, such as bathing, dressing, and wound care. Working closely with clients and their families, nurses are often the first to alert doctors of changes in the patient's medical condition.

However, nursing is a profession that requires more than book knowledge and medical skills. Nurses must also act as compassionate caregivers, supportive advocates and thorough educators to improve and preserve the health and quality of life of their patients. Nurses must be flexible, attentive and demonstrate strong critical thinking skills. They must be prepared to act quickly and competently in order to save lives.

A career in nursing opens many doors and allows nurses to shape their own unique career path. Some nurses choose to specialize in specific clinical areas such as pediatrics, mental health or critical care, while others move into case management, education, research, insurance or administrative roles. In this exciting field, every day is truly different, but each one is rewarding.

You Might Like This Program If...

You might like this major if you enjoy learning about the human body and how it functions and heals. It is also important to enjoy working with people. Nurses work closely with clients and their families while providing respectful and compassionate healthcare, often during vulnerable stages of life. Nurses must be adaptable, quick on their feet and demonstrate good critical thinking and communication skills. Students pursuing this degree should strive to be leaders in the healthcare field and exhibit professionalism and ethical integrity.