NURSING, R.N. TO B.S.

Begin Campus: Abington, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, World Campus, Scranton

End Campus: Abington, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, World Campus, Scranton

Program Description
This major prepares registered nurse students as professional practitioners in areas of health promotion and maintenance, illness care, and rehabilitation.

Part-time or full-time study is available at any of the campus sites. The World Campus site is completely online.

Senate legislation 42-97 Credit by Portfolio Assessment enables students to receive credit for certain prescribed nursing courses based on their RN licensure.

Students must meet all requirements of the clinical institutions that provide preceptors and clinical experiences. These requirements may include CPR certification, professional liability insurance, health examination, drug testing, criminal background check (State and Federal) and child abuse history clearances. Students also are responsible for their own transportation to and from clinical settings and may need the use of a car.

Graduates of this major may qualify for admission to a graduate nursing program.

What is Nursing?
Nurses are a vital part of the medical team. As the medical field continuously changes, there is an increased demand for nursing leaders who can improve patient outcomes and decrease healthcare costs. These leaders must combine their solid clinical skills with cultural competency, appreciation for research and innovation, effective communication and strong critical-thinking skills to meet these needs. Research shows that through the broad liberal arts foundation and expanded nursing curriculum, bachelor’s-prepared nurses demonstrate better professional integration of these aspects into their clinical practice. As a result, medical facilities have noted lower mortality rates, shorter hospital stays and lower healthcare costs. See the American Association of the Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Fact Sheet (http://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Fact-Sheets/Impact-of-Education) for additional information.

Penn State’s RN to B.S.N. program meets current healthcare demands by expanding and enhancing nurses’ existing education and preparing students to advance their practice as clinical leaders, nurse managers and as preparation for entrance to graduate degree programs.

You Might Like This Program If...
You are currently licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) with an associate’s degree or nursing diploma and want to advance your theoretical and clinical skills while making yourself more marketable in the current healthcare industry. Additionally, you may wish to continue onto a clinical skills track while making yourself more marketable in the current healthcare industry. Additionally, you may wish to continue onto an advanced nursing graduate degree program and need your B.S.N. in order to be eligible to apply for graduate school. The Penn State RN to B.S.N. program is the right choice for nurses wanting a B.S.N. degree from a nationally-recognized institution with a reputation for academic excellence.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in Nursing, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>91-93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The cornerstone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

21-22 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.
Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

This includes 21-22 credits of General Education courses: 3 credits of GHW courses; 9 credits of GN courses; 3-4 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.
Suggested Academic Plan

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 141†††</td>
<td>3 BIOL 129†††</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 142†</td>
<td>1 HDFS 129†††</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 100†††</td>
<td>3 NUTR 251†††</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30†</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GQ)†, †, †</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- † Required courses
- ††† These courses require a grade of C or better.
- †† These courses are offered at Abington, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, Scranton, University Park, and World Campus Campuses.
### General Education Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101 or 110 and 111†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 390†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 357</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 200W</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits 120-123</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A baccalaureate degree in nursing is typically required to pursue advanced degrees in nursing, which prepares the nurse for roles such as nurse educator, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, nurse administrator, and nurse researcher.

The College of Nursing at Penn State offers several advanced-degree options for B.S.N.-educated nurses. On-campus options are available for nurses interested in advanced clinical practice roles such as a Nurse Practitioner, or in research through the Ph.D. program. Several online options are offered to provide flexibility to working nurses across the...
country. These programs include M.S.N. degrees in Nurse Administration and Nurse Education and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree for nurses pursuing specialization in healthcare leadership.

MORE INFORMATION (https://www.nursing.psu.edu/graduate)

Professional Resources

- Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) (http://www.snap.psu.edu)
- National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) (http://www.nsna.org)
- Sigma Theta Tau International (https://www.sigmanursing.org)
- Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Pages/default.aspx#VTEYxFVhBd)
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (https://www.ncsbn.org)

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs are approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and accredited by the:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

655 K Street, NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001
202-887-6791 - Phone
202-887-8476 – Fax
http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.aacn.nche.edu)

Contact

University Park

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING OFFICE
210 Nursing Sciences Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-2229
nursing@psu.edu

https://www.nursing.psu.edu/undergrad/rn-bs/

Abington

DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7398
bmh17@psu.edu

http://abington.psu.edu/nursing-rn-bs-degree-program

Altoona

DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Sheetz Family Health Center 106, 3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-5114
skk6@psu.edu

http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/nursing/request-information

Erie

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
1 Prischak
4205 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6105
behrend-science@psu.edu

http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-science

Fayette

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4220
mgm12@psu.edu

http://fayette.psu.edu/nursing-rn-bs

Harrisburg

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
Olmsted Building W314
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6735
kqr1@psu.edu

http://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-and-education/nursing/bachelor-science-nursing

Mont Alto

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, RN TO BSN
104F Sci-Tech
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6205
cmb207@psu.edu

http://montalto.psu.edu/directory/baccalaureate-rn-bs-program

New Kensington

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6725
jmk24@psu.edu

http://newkensington.psu.edu/nursing-rrn-bs

Schuylkill

DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
C007 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6266
mta133@psu.edu

http://www.schuylkill.psu.edu/nursing

Scranton

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
4 Library Building
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2649
mme131@psu.edu
http://worthingtonscranlon.psu.edu/nursing

Shenango

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
147 Shenango Avenue
324 Lecture Hall
Sharon, PA 16146
724-983-2963
jth14@psu.edu
http://shenango.psu.edu/nursing

World Campus

COLLEGE OF NURSING
201 Nursing Sciences Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-2229
nursing@psu.edu

https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/nursing-rn-to-bs-bachelors/overview