

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 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:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	4-5
Requirements for the Major	91-93

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 keystone 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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BIOL 129	Mammalian Anatomy	4
BIOL 141	Introductory Physiology	3
BIOL 142	Physiology Laboratory	1
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
MICRB 106	Elementary Microbiology	3
MICRB 107	Elementary Microbiology Laboratory	1
NUTR 251	Introductory Principles of Nutrition	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
NURS 200W	Principles of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice ¹	3
NURS 357	Introduction to Nursing Informatics ¹	3
NURS 390	Transition and the Professional Nursing Role ¹	3
NURS 417	Family and Community Health Concepts ¹	4

NURS 465	Health Concepts for Adults with Complex Health Care Needs ¹	3
NURS 475	Integrated Concepts in Nursing Practice ¹	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Credit by portfolio assessment</i>		
NURS 225	Pathophysiology	3
NURS 230	Introduction to the Fundamentals of Nursing	4
NURS 250	Professional Role Dev I: Intro to Professional Issues in Nursing Practice and Nursing Informatics	2
NURS 301	Nursing Care of the Adult Client Requiring Medical-Surgical Intervention	4
NURS 305	Introduction to Pharmacological Concepts	3
NURS 306	Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents	3
NURS 310	Therapeutic Nursing Care of the Older Adult Client in a Variety of Settings	3
NURS 320	Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family and Gynecological Client	3
NURS 405B	Nursing Care of the Adult Client with Complex Health Problems: Part B	4
NURS 420	Mental Health Nursing	4

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

CHEM 101	Introductory Chemistry	3-4
or CHEM 110 & CHEM 111	Chemical Principles I and Experimental Chemistry I	
NURS 251	Health Assessment ¹	3
or NURS 352	Advanced Health Assessment for the Registered Nurse	
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
or SOC 5	Social Problems	
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	3-4
or STAT 250	Introduction to Biostatistics	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits (3 credits of which must be at the 400 level) from courses on school-approved list in consultation with adviser	6
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¹ Due to restricted enrollment, the College of Nursing assigns the semester in which students enroll in these courses and all course prerequisites must be successfully completed.

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.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy>)

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World Campus

College of Nursing

Undergraduate Advising

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Suggested Academic Plan

Nursing RN to BSN Degree Program at Abington, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, Scranton, University Park, and World Campus Campuses

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

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 141 ^{**1}	3 BIOL 129 ^{**1}	4
BIOL 142 ^{**}	1 HDFS 129 ^{**1}	3
PSYCH 100 ^{**1}	3 NUTR 251 ^{**1}	3
ENGL 15 or 30 [†]	3 General Education Course (GQ) ^{†1,2}	3

General Education Course (GH) ¹	3 CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C [‡]	3
General Education Course (GA) ¹	3	
	16	16
Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 101 or 110 <i>and</i> 111 ^{*2}	3-4 SOC 1 or SOC 5 [*]	3
MICRB 106 ^{**†1}	3 STAT 200 or 250 ^{**††1}	3-4
MICRB 107 ^{*†}	1 NURS 251 or 352 [*]	3
NURS 390 ^{*3}	3 NURS Supporting Course [*]	3
NURS 357 [*]	3 General Education Course (GH) ¹	3
Elective	2-3	
	15-17	15-16
Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURS 417 [*]	4 NURS 200W [*]	3
General Education Course (GA) ¹	3 NURS 465 [*]	3
Elective	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
	10	9
Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURS 475 ^{*4}	3 Portfolio Credits for RN License	33
NURS 400-level Supporting Course [*]	3	
	6	33
Total Credits 120-123		

* 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.

Footnotes

¹ Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must take 6 credits of Integrative Studies courses (Inter-domain or Linked courses). Students should consult with their academic adviser to select appropriate courses.

² College Algebra I (MATH 21) is a prerequisite for CHEM 101. MATH 22 is a prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 21 on the ALEKS Assessment Exam, any GQ may be scheduled.

³ NURS 390 should be the first NURS course taken in the RN to BSN program.

⁴ NURS 475 should be the final NURS course taken in the RN to BSN program.

Program Notes:

Typically, students entering NURN have the General Education and/or major requirements completed and will receive transfer credits. Speak with an adviser to have transfer transcripts evaluated.

Career Paths

Demand for nurses continues to rise and with the B.S.N. degree becoming the degree of choice for many healthcare facilities, baccalaureate-educated nurses are highly marketable. Additionally, the Penn State B.S.N. degree creates a strong foundation for continuing into advanced nursing roles through a variety of graduate level nursing programs. The versatility of the B.S.N. degree provides graduates with the skills and background to pursue the career path that is right for them. Nurses have countless options to explore different specialties, advance into leadership roles, and continue with lifelong learning while providing high quality nursing care to their clients.

Careers

Registered Nurses (RNs) will find that they have more job opportunities and career stability with a B.S.N. degree. Penn State RN to B.S.N. graduates can choose from numerous career opportunities and work in different aspects of the healthcare industry, including:

- administrative or management positions
- education
- research
- consulting
- community and public health centers
- social work case management
- specialization areas
- pharmaceutical sales
- insurance

MORE INFORMATION (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>)

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.nсна.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#VTEYxCFVhBd>)
- 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

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Abington

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

Altoona

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

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World Campus

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