**NURSING, R.N. TO B.S.N.**

**Begin Campus:** Abington, Fayette, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, World Campus

**End Campus:** Abington, Fayette, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, World Campus

**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 University Park site is a blended program, which includes resident instruction and online nursing courses. 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 R.N. 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 including required vaccinations, 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.aacnursing.org/News-Information/Fact-Sheets/Impact-of-Education/) for additional information.

Penn State’s R.N. 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 (R.N.) 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 R.N. 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.

**Direct Admission to the Major**

Incoming first-year students who meet the program admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. Admission restrictions may apply for change-of-major and/or change-of-campus students.

For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the college, campus, or program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

**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>
<tr>
<td>21-22 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GHW courses; 9 credits of GN courses; 3-4 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.</td>
<td></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 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

**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 advisor 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 advisor 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
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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I - Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 163</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II - Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 164</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II - Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 129</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 106</td>
<td>Elementary Microbiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 107</td>
<td>Elementary Microbiology Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 200W</td>
<td>Principles of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 357</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
academic adviser, the information needed 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/)

## Abington
Brenda Holtzer  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
1600 Woodland Road  
Abington, PA 19001  
215-881-7398  
bmh17@psu.edu

## Fayette
Melissa Miner, DNP, RN, CNE  
Associate Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
2201 University Drive  
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
724-430-4220  
mbm12@psu.edu

## Mont Alto
Carranda Barkdoll  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
104F Sci-Tech  
Mont Alto, PA 17237  
717-749-6205  
cmb207@psu.edu

## New Kensington
Janet Knott  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
3550 Seventh Street Rd.  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
724-334-6725  
jmk24@psu.edu

## Schuylkill
Marianne Adam  
Associate Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
C007 200 University Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
570-385-6266  
mta133@psu.edu

## Shenango
Joan Humphrey  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Nursing Program Coordinator  
147 Shenango Avenue  
324 Lecture Hall  
Sharon, PA 16146  
724-983-2963  
jth14@psu.edu

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### University Park and World Campus

**College of Nursing**  
**Undergraduate Advising**  
201 Nursing Sciences Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-2229  
nursing@psu.edu

### Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2020-21 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

### Nursing RN to BSN Degree Program at Abington, Fayette, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Series</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Series</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall BIOL 161*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring BIOL 163*†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall BIOL 162*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring BIOL 164*†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall PSYCH 100*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring HDFS 129*†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall ENGL 15 or 30‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring SOC 1 or 5*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall MICRB 106*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring NURS 251 or 352*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall NURS 390*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring General Education Course (GH)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall General Education Course (GA)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>16</td>
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#### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Series</th>
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<th>Course Series</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall CHEM 130 or 110 and 111*‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 4-3 SOC 1 or 5*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall MICRB 106*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 200 or 250*†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall MICRB 107*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 1 NURS 251 or 352*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall NURS 390*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 3 NURS Supporting Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall NURS 357*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring General Education Course (GH)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Elective</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spring 2-3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>15-16</td>
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</table>

#### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Series</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Series</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall NURS 417*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 4 NURS 200W*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall General Education Course (GA)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Demand for nurses continues to rise. The B.S.N. degree in Nursing is rapidly becoming the degree of choice for many healthcare facilities, rendering baccalaureate-educated nurses highly marketable. Graduates of the baccalaureate nursing program have a vast array of rewarding employment opportunities. Employment settings include:

- Trauma centers and community hospitals caring for the critically ill or injured
- Home health agencies providing medical care to homebound clients
- Rehabilitation and long-term care facilities
- Hospice agencies caring for people with terminal illnesses
- Schools or pediatric/neoatal units working with children and newborns
- Military bases
- Insurance agencies evaluating patient claims and teaching classes to insurance agents
- Travel and cruise ship nursing

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE NURSING, R.N. TO B.S.N. PROGRAM (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 (D.N.P) degree for nurses pursuing specialization in healthcare leadership.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/nursing/#text)

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.pas.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 (http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/)

### 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.

### 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

**Careers**
Demand for nurses continues to rise. The B.S.N. degree in Nursing is rapidly becoming the degree of choice for many healthcare facilities,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 400-level Supporting Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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. MATH 21 is a prerequisite for CHEM 130 and STAT 200 or STAT 250. 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 R.N. to B.S.N. program.

4. NURS 475 should be the final NURS course taken in the R.N. to B.S.N. program.

4 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D†
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF NURSING (http://www.aacn.nche.edu)

**Contact**

**Abington**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7398
bmh17@psu.edu

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

**Fayette**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4220
mbm12@psu.edu

https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/nursing-rn-bsn (https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/nursing-rn-bsn/)

**Mont Alto**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
104F Sci-Tech
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6205
cmb207@psu.edu

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

**New Kensington**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6725
jmk24@psu.edu

http://newkensington.psu.edu/nursing-rn-bs (http://newkensington.psu.edu/nursing-rn-bs/)

**Schuylkill**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
C007 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6266
mta133@psu.edu

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

**Shenango**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
147 Shenango Avenue
324 Lecture Hall
Sharon, PA 16146
724-983-2963
jth14@psu.edu

**University Park and World Campus**
NURSING MAJOR - RN to B.S.N.
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING OFFICE
201 Nursing Sciences Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-2229
nursing@psu.edu

https://www.nursing.psu.edu/rn-to-bsn-degree-program/