

NURSING

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

For admission to the Nursing program, an applicant must hold either:

- a bachelor's degree in Nursing from a U.S. regionally accredited institution or
- a postsecondary degree in Nursing that is equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree earned from an officially recognized degree-granting international institution. Students entering the doctoral program via the traditional post-master's route must have earned a master's degree with a major in nursing from a program accredited by a national accrediting agency for nursing. Well-qualified Ph.D. applicants with a baccalaureate degree in nursing and master's degree in a related discipline (e.g., public health) will be evaluated individually to assess the need for prerequisite master's-level course work in nursing for doctoral program admission.

Applicants must submit official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>). For M.S.N. applicants, a cumulative grade-point average of 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) for the baccalaureate degree is expected with a B or better in all science and nursing courses. College chemistry and statistics are also required (chemistry is not required for the nurse administrator option). B.S.N. to D.N.P. applicants are expected to have a cumulative undergraduate grade-point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) with a B or better in all science and nursing courses. College chemistry and statistics are also required (chemistry is not required for the leadership option). For master's to Ph.D. or D.N.P. applicants, a cumulative grade-point average 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) for master's and subsequent course work is expected.

Two letters of reference are required for the M.S.N. degree program and three letters of reference are required for the D.N.P. and Ph.D. degree programs. The letters should be solicited from professional supervisors and faculty who can attest to the applicant's ability. If a degree was completed in the last 5 years, an academic reference is required.

All applicants must submit a statement of purpose. In addition, D.N.P. and Ph.D. degree applicants must also submit a published or unpublished scientific paper, thesis, or other scholarly writing sample and a complete curriculum vitae.

GRE scores are optional for admission to the Ph.D. program. GRE scores are not required for the M.S.N. or D.N.P. applicants, but if the scores are submitted to Penn State they will be reviewed as part of the application.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Applicants to the Nursing program must have a minimum TOEFL total score of 80 with a 25 on the speaking section for the internet-based

test (iBT). For the paper-based test, taken prior to July 2017, a minimum of 580 is required. The minimum composite score for the IELTS for applicants to the Nursing program is 7.

Applicants to the M.S.N. options and D.N.P. degree offered online via the World Campus must hold a current license to practice professional nursing in at least one U.S. state or in a foreign country. Those applying to a nurse practitioner option must hold a current Pennsylvania license to practice professional nursing. Nursing applicants to the Ph.D. degree program must be licensed to practice professional nursing in at least one state or in a foreign country.

Applicants to the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Option are required to have two years of acute care hospital experience.

Applicants to the M.S.N. and D.N.P. degree program are encouraged to discuss program options with the faculty; however, an interview is not required. PhD applicants will be contacted by the College of Nursing to schedule a required interview (either in person or via internet-based video conferencing).