



# The Career Center Pre-Nursing Guide



## Pre-Requisite Information

*Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to research individual nursing program admission requirements. BSN & ABSN program requirements differ from Direct-Entry MSN program requirements. Additional courses may be required or recommended, including behavioral sciences, humanities, math and science. Your academic advisor can discuss courses required for your major.*

Biological Sciences	Courses	Required	Strongly Recommended
Anatomy & Physiology (2 sem)	MCB 244 & MCB 245 MCB 246 & MCB 247	✓	
Microbiology (1 sem) *lab may be required	MCB 100 & MCB 101 or MCB 300 & MCB 301	✓	
Physical Sciences	Courses	Required	Strongly Recommended
General Chemistry (1-2 sem)	CHEM 102 & CHEM 103 CHEM 104 & CHEM 105	✓	
Statistics & Math	Courses	Required	Strongly Recommended
Statistics	STAT 100 or equivalent	✓	
Behavioral Sciences	Courses	Required	Strongly Recommended
Psychology	PSYC 100	✓	
Sociology	SOC 100	✓	
Human Development	HDFS 105	✓	
Health Sciences	Courses	Required	Strongly Recommended
Nutrition	FSHN 120	✓	



## EXPERIENCES FOR NURSING SCHOOL

*Nursing schools look for a variety of experiences during the admission process. This is not an exhaustive list of the opportunities. Students can pursue many things to enhance their future application. It is important to have quality experiences over quantity!*

### Clinical Experience

- Shadow RNs, NPs, CRNAs
- Hospital/Clinic Volunteering
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

### Community Service

- Social Justice
- Get out in your campus community

### Leadership

- Training & Development
- Executive Board Position

### Research

- Undergraduate Research
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Research during gap year



# YOUR TIMELINE

*This is a suggested timeline only for students planning to transfer to a traditional BSN program. Every student has their own path to nursing school. If choosing an ABSN or a Direct Entry-MSN, students can spread the pre-requisite courses over their 4 years at UIUC. Please note requirements vary by degree type and individual programs.*

## Fall

CHEM 102/103  
PSYC 100

Attend Quad Day, Pre-Health Kick-Off  
Find RSOs to join (don't join too many!)

## Spring

CHEM 104/105 (if needed)  
STAT 100  
SOC 100

Volunteering  
Summer planning-shadowing, CNA

## Fall

MCB 100 (take lab if needed)  
MCB 244 & MCB 245  
HDFS 105

Continue activities and/or find new ones  
Prep to apply to BSN programs

## Spring

MCB 246 & MCB 247  
FSHN 120

Interview for BSN programs

## Fall

Nursing School Year 1

## Spring

Nursing School Year 2

## Fall

Nursing School Year 3

## Spring

Nursing School Year 4

Take NCLEX



# YOUR TIMELINE

*Print this document to fill in your coursework and experiences.*

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

Fall

Spring

# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## ARE YOU READY?

### First step...

Determine if you are ready to apply based on your academics (GPA, completed pre-reqs), test score (if applicable), experiences and letters of rec. Do you feel like you are competitive for the programs you want to apply to?



## APPLICATION OPENS

### Know your dates...

Many Nursing programs will use NursingCAS as their preferred/required application.

NursingCAS has varying application cycles depending on cohort start dates. If a program does not use NursingCAS, then you will apply directly to the Nursing school.



## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO APPLY?

### Plan ahead...

It is important to know that you typically do not need letters of recommendation or your test scores to submit your application. The basic parts are: biographical info, coursework, personal statement, work/activities, who your letter writers are and admission test date.



## VERIFICATION

### Start the process...

NursingCAS will have your primary application go through a process called verification. This is where NursingCAS "verifies" what you have entered in for coursework and that it matches your transcripts. They will also calculate the various GPAs Nursing schools use to evaluate applicants. This process can take 2 days or up to 4 weeks.

Apply early!



# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

*Check your email...*

Once your application is submitted and verified, you can work on secondary applications or supplemental questions. Many programs will have questions embedded in NursingCAS or could send you a separate application (secondary). If a program does not use NursingCAS, they will have questions on their application.



## WAITING GAME

*No news, is good news...*

One of the most anxious times for pre-health applicants is waiting to hear back from programs on interviews or decisions. Depending how long you have waited, you can submit an update with significant information. Otherwise, know that if you haven't been denied, then you still have an opportunity!



## INTERVIEWS

*Again...check your email!*

Being invited for an interview means that you have met what they are looking for on paper. This is your opportunity to talk to individuals at the programs about why you are passionate about the field and that specific school. Do your research! Come prepared with your own questions! And don't forget to practice with a mock interview!



## ADMISSION OFFERS

*Be ready*

Nursing programs may send admission offers within a couple of weeks of interviewing. Programs usually send out decisions in batches. It is possible to receive multiple offers, but also be denied or waitlisted.

*yes*



# TIMELINE OF APPLYING

## DECISION TIME

### *Understand your options*

If you have received an admission offer, be mindful of due dates for deposits to hold your seat. Plus, applicants need to be aware of decision deadlines. Read carefully any information programs have sent you!

If you did not receive any offers, make sure you think about a plan B and what you need to do to reapply.



## START SCHOOL

*Woohoo!!*

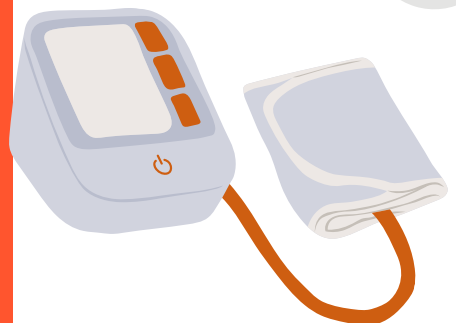
Congratulations! You have accepted an offer to a Nursing school and are ready to start your journey to become a registered nurse.



## HOW DO I GET HELP?

### *The Career Center*

Throughout the application process, the Pre-Health Advisors are available to assist applicants...alumni too! We can discuss competitiveness, review personal statements, work/activity sections, secondary essays, school list, conduct mock interviews and walk you through the decision process. Don't hesitate to contact us, if you need help!



# RESOURCES



[Discover Nursing](#)



[Nursing Program Finder](#)



[NursingCAS \(Centralized Application Service\)](#)



[Health Profession Advising](#)



[Personal Statement Reviews](#)



[Mock Interviews](#)