

BSN Prospective Student FAQ's

General Program Information

- **What is my first step to get into your program?**
ALL STUDENTS must first apply for admission to the University of Texas at Austin through the Office of Admissions (if not already enrolled at UT). Only after they have been admitted to the University as a Pre-Nursing major can they complete the Nursing prerequisite courses and apply to the Upper-Division sequence.
- **Can I schedule an appointment with a Nursing advisor?**
Prospective students must first attend a Prospective Student Information Session before meeting with an advisor. These sessions are led by an advisor, who then serves as the students' point-of-contact at the School of Nursing. Please call the Student Affairs Office at (512) 232-4780 to sign up for an information session.
- **How long is the BSN program?**
The BSN program generally takes about four years to complete—two years of prerequisites and two years of the upper-division professional sequence.
- **When do I become a Registered Nurse?**
Students who complete this program graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and are then eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). Upon successful completion of the NCLEX students are awarded their Registered Nurse (RN) license.

Prerequisite Course Information

- **Can I take all of the BSN prerequisites at another college/university?**
No. Although many of the prerequisites may transfer in from another institution, there are 11 credit hours that must be taken in residence at UT Austin. These courses are Communication in Health Care Settings (N310), Ethics of Health Care (N311), Nursing Research (N264), and Pharmacology (PHR338).
- **Can someone in the School of Nursing evaluate my transcripts to determine which courses will transfer in to your program?**
No. All transfer credit decisions are made by the UT Austin Office of Admissions at the time of admission to the University. Students must first apply to the University and submit all required documents, including transcripts of previous coursework.
- **How can I determine which of the prerequisites I have taken will transfer in to your program?**
The Office of Admissions has a number of transfer credit evaluation tools for Texas colleges/universities. These tools include community college transfer guides, Interactive Degree Audits (IDA), and an Automated Transfer Equivalency (ATE) system. They can be accessed through the Office of Admissions website (<http://www.utexas.edu/student/admissions/>).
- **How can I evaluate my out-of-state transfer credit?**

Transfer credit from out-of-state colleges/universities can only be evaluated at the time of application and admission to the University. The Office of Admissions does not provide transfer evaluation tools for out-of-state institutions.

- **Which prerequisites have to be taken in residence at UT Austin?**
Communication in Health Care Settings (N310), Ethics of Health Care (N311), Nursing Research (N264), and Pharmacology (PHR338) must be taken in residence and will not transfer in from another institution.

Pre-Nursing Major Information

- **How do I change my major to Pre-Nursing?**
Students must apply to change their major by following the Internal Transfer Guidelines for the School of Nursing (www.utexas.edu/nursing). Students who meet the eligibility requirements can apply to change their major within the first eight class days of the current semester. If approved, the major change will take place before the 12th class day of the same semester.
- **Can I double major with Nursing as one of my majors?**
It is possible, although not recommended. Because the Upper-Division sequence requires full-time enrollment and follows a set series of coursework, it is not possible to take classes from other majors while in this sequence. Students must complete their non-Nursing major degree requirements either before or after enrollment in the Upper-Division sequence.
- **Can I take the BSN prerequisites at UT if I'm not a pre-nursing major?**
Yes, non-pre-nursing majors can take all of the BSN prerequisites except Communication in Health Care Settings (N310), Ethics of Health Care (N311), and Nursing Research (N264). These courses are restricted to pre-nursing majors only. However, it is recommended that students transfer to Pre-Nursing as early as possible as they will then be assigned a nursing advisor and have a higher priority for registration in some of the prerequisite courses.
- **I tried to register for some of the prerequisites and it says they're restricted to Pre-Nursing majors. How can I get into these classes?**
Some departments on campus, such as Chemistry (CH313N, CH314N), reserve seats in their courses for our pre-nursing students. They may, however, lift that restriction if you are planning on changing your major to Pre-Nursing. You need to contact that department directly to inquire about lifting the restriction.
*Please note that the Nursing courses (N310, N311, N264) are also restricted to pre-nursing majors, but we will not lift these restrictions.

Upper-Division Information

- **When do students begin the Upper-Division sequence?**
The School of Nursing admits students to the Upper-Division sequence during the Spring and Fall semesters. Students are generally starting their Junior year of college at this point.
- **What are the Upper-Division application deadlines?**
The Upper-Division application deadlines are February 15th for the Fall semester and September 15th for the Spring semester.

- **What is the minimum GPA required to apply for the Upper-Division sequence?**
Students must have at least a 2.5 GPA in sciences, prerequisite courses, and all UT coursework in order to apply for the Upper-Division sequence.
- **How many students apply and are admitted to the Upper-Division sequence?**
The School of Nursing generally has around 120 students apply to the Upper-Division sequence, of which about 60% are admitted.
- **What is the average GPA of students who are admitted to the Upper-Division sequence?**
Students who are admitted to the Upper-Division sequence generally have between a 3.0 and 3.5 GPA.
- **Will I be able to work while I'm enrolled in the Upper-Division sequence?**
It is possible, although not recommended, for students to work part-time while enrolled in the Upper-Division sequence. The coursework and course load in this sequence are very strenuous and require a lot of study time. Also, placements in clinical courses change each semester as far as days and times, which makes it difficult for students to coordinate their work schedules.
- **I am enrolled in the professional Nursing sequence at another college/university. Can I transfer in to your Upper-Division sequence?**
It is possible to transfer in to our upper-division sequence from another program, although it is not recommended. It's almost always better to complete your program at the college/university where you started. Nursing programs are not put together in the same order, nor do they have exactly the same concentrations. In addition, each college/university has its own unique requirements for its students. All of this makes it difficult to complete a program after beginning elsewhere.

If you would still like to explore the possibility of transferring, you will need to do the following:

- 1st Step: Contact the UT Austin Office of Admissions to determine transfer requirements and application deadlines. Please note that you must complete 60 hours in residence in order to receive a degree at UT Austin.
 - 2nd Step: Check the list of prerequisite courses we require for our program (see the BSN Degree Plan at www.utexas.edu/nursing).
 - 3rd Step: Call (512) 232-4799 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Carter, the Assistant Dean for Student and Clinical Affairs. She will review the syllabi from your previous nursing courses to determine what you would still need to complete our upper-division nursing requirements.
 - 4th Step: If the Dean approves of your transfer she will guide you through the process of applying to the University and starting our upper-division sequence.
- **I am in the military and need to complete the Nursing program in 2 years. Is this possible?**
No. Although you may have completed all prerequisites prior to applying to the Upper-Division sequence, there are 11 prerequisite credit hours that must be taken in residence at UT before starting the sequence. Thus your actual time in the program would be over two years.
 - **I am in the military and need an acceptance letter from your program before I apply to the Upper-Division sequence. Is this possible?**

No. We cannot guarantee anyone acceptance to our Upper-Division sequence without first going through the application process, at which time our Admissions Committee reviews all applications and makes admission decisions.

- **If I have a Bachelors degree in a field other than Nursing can I apply directly to the Upper-Division sequence?**

No. Students with a non-nursing Bachelors need to first apply to the University as undergraduate transfer students. Then, depending on what transfers in from their previous degree, they will need to complete the remaining prerequisite courses. Students may apply to the Upper-Division sequence when they are enrolled in the last of these prerequisites.

Alternative Degree Options

- **Do you have an Accelerated Bachelors program?**

No. Please visit the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE, <http://www.bne.state.tx.us/>) for a complete listing of Nursing education programs in the state of Texas that offer a variety of programs, including Accelerated Bachelors, ADN, and LVN programs.

- **Is there another degree option for students with a non-Nursing Bachelors degree?**

Yes. The School of Nursing also offers an Alternate Entry Masters (AE MSN) program for non-nursing bachelor degree holders. This is a three-year program. During the first 15 months of the program students prepare for the NCLEX exam to receive their RN licensure. After obtaining their RN license, students continue forward with the graduate coursework to complete Master of Science in Nursing degree. Please see the Graduate Student Affairs Office for more detailed information on this program (www.utexas.edu/nursing).