

SO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?

Nursing as a professional discipline is concerned with human responses to actual and potential health problems. Current research in nursing is focused on human responses to acute and chronic health problems, health promotion, health maintenance, and nursing interventions.

There are several levels of educational choices for nurses, including the Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.), the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.), and the Registered Nurse (R.N., often obtained through a bachelor's degree), Entry-Level Master's in Nursing programs. In addition, nurses can earn advanced degrees in their field, such as the Master's of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) and/or a doctoral degree in nursing.

If you hope to obtain a B.S.N, you may follow one of two routes: complete the pre-nursing requirements in preparation for transferring to a bachelor's program in nursing at another school or complete a bachelor's degree at UCSB and apply to an accelerated B.S.N. program or Entry-Level Master's in Nursing (ELM). Accelerated B.S.N. and ELM programs allow students to earn the degree in 12-18 months, and are designed for students who have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline.

In the nursing field, it is possible to specialize in a particular clinical area—especially at the graduate level. An M.S.N., for example, might choose to specialize in nurse anesthesia, community health nursing, gerontological nursing, medical-surgical nursing, psychiatric mental health nursing, or nurse midwifery. Alternatively, a nurse could specialize according to age group (e.g. child health nursing or nursing of the adult) or according to functional area (e.g. teaching or administration). Programs that prepare generalists are also available.

PREREQUISITES: NOTE: THESE ARE GENERAL PREREQUISITE COURSES THAT MANY ACCELERATED BSN AND ENTRY-LEVEL MASTERS IN NURSING PROGRAMS REQUIRE FOR ADMISSION; HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER COURSES THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED BY THESE PROGRAMS BUT ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED OR NEEDED TO COMPLETE PREREQUISITES FOR ENTRY INTO THE REQUIRED COURSES NEEDED AT UCSB. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS.

Math/Statistics	PStat 5A or 5LS or PSY 10B
Chemistry (Full Year/3 Quarters)	CHEM 1A (3 units)/1AL (2 units): General Chem. And Gen. Chem. Lab CHEM 1B (3 units)/1BL (2 units): General Chem. And Gen. Chem. Lab CHEM 1C (3 units)/1CL (2 units): General Chem. And Gen. Chem. Lab
Organic Chemistry (At least 2 quarters)	CHM 109A (4 units): Organic Chemistry CHEM 6AL (3 units): Organic Chemistry Lab (May be taken with 109A.) CHEM 109B (4 units): Organic Chemistry
Biochemistry (1 Quarter)	MCDB 110 (Prerequisites include Chem 1A-C & Chem 109A-B)
Microbiology w/lab (1 course)	MCDB 131/131L (Prerequisites include Chem 109A-B and MCDB 110) Non-Science majors may wish to take General Microbiology BMS 157 at SBCC
Human Anatomy & Human Physiology (1 course each, w/Labs)	*Taken at SBCC—BMS 107 and BMS 108
Social/Behavioral Sciences & Humanities (2 Courses)	Introduction to Psychology (or a General Psychology course) PSY 1 *Some programs may require additional psychology courses such as Human Growth and Development (Lifespan) and Abnormal Psychology.
English/Writing (2 Courses)	*Typically any courses in the Writing, English, and possibly Comparative Lit. depts.
Possible Additional Coursework	An introductory Biology sequence, Physics, Nutrition, Medical Terminology, Public Speaking, Spanish
If you intend to apply to a nursing program, you should pursue clinical work or volunteer experience. This will help you demonstrate your commitment to nursing—and allow you to see firsthand if the profession fits your needs and aptitudes. In addition to clinical experience, general community service can strengthen your nursing school application.	
For more information about internships and volunteer opportunities, please visit the Clinical Experience page.	

EXAM AND GPA:

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS): The GRE is a standardized examination that consists of four multiple-choice sections that cover basic mathematics and reading comprehension skills. The GRE is designed to measure general academic ability. It is required by some schools for admission into their graduate programs. Typically, students take the GRE about one calendar year prior to their intended date of matriculation to a graduate program. Programs that require the GRE for applicants will likely post minimum and/or competitive scores for the exam on their websites, so please check the programs you are interested in applying to in order to help determine your likelihood of acceptance. The TEAS is an examination that some BSN programs require applicants take. As with the GRE, check with the programs you hope to apply to in order to determine their specific requirements for admission.

Grade Point Average (GPA): All required coursework should be completed with a grade of “C” (2.00) or better to fulfill the requirement. A “C-minus” or lower is not acceptable. Some programs only allow applicants to retake a science course 1 time in order to earn a better grade, so it is especially important to utilize resources such as office hours, CLAS workshops, and advising services as soon as you begin to feel that you are struggling academically.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing [Click Here](#)
GRE Information [Click Here](#)
NursingCAS [Click Here](#)
Nurse.com [Click Here](#)