

School of Nursing

Mission Statement

The School of Nursing seeks to provide Christ-centered, biblically based, service-focused nursing education, equipping individuals with the skills and abilities required of professional nurses to effectively serve Christ and to assume servant-leadership roles while providing ministry and service to humankind. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pre-licensure program provides a strong foundation in biblical studies, liberal arts and the sciences.

BSN Graduate Competencies

The following competencies are threaded throughout the curriculum – progressing from awareness, recognition and beginning application, to application and performance, to proficiency. The competencies are guided by the curricular framework, program, term, course and clinical outcomes.

- Biblically Based Christian Worldview
- Global Perspective
- Patient-Centered Care
- Interprofessional Collaborative Practice
- Clinical Reasoning and Professional Judgment
- Promote Health/Prevent Disease/Address Diverse Healthcare Needs
- Professional Development
- Christian Character/Professional Values
- Skills/Abilities of a Professional Nurse Generalist
- Safety/Quality of Care and Accountability

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pre-licensure program is granted approval from the Minnesota Board of Nursing. Nursing Major candidates who have completed all program, credit and degree requirements will be recommended for the candidate's licensure (NCLEX-RN®).

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing at University of Northwestern – St. Paul is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (www.ccnaccreditation.org).

Nursing Program Admission Requirements

A University of Northwestern student who has declared a nursing major, after meeting the following requirements, will be able to progress into Term 1 nursing courses. Students must:

- Complete all pre-requisite courses with a “C” grade or higher.
- Have a GPA of 2.75 or higher at the start of Term 1 nursing courses.
- Pass the TEAS Entrance Exam (Test of Essential Academic Skills) with a score of 65% or higher.
- Have no more than 12 remaining core curriculum credits upon entering Term 1. These 12 remaining credits must be completed by the end of Term 3.
- Submit all required health and background check documents

For UNW students who are enrolled in the Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO), have completed all pre-requisite science courses through UNW, and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75 two months prior to Term 1, the TEAS Entrance Examination requirement is waived.

Students will work collaboratively with the Nursing Program Student Success Coach and develop a plan for completing all requirements to progress into Term 1 nursing courses. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to choose the timing for entering into either the accelerated or traditional path. The School of Nursing will give consideration into each student's preference when determining placement into the accelerated or traditional path.

In order to be considered a qualifying candidate for the School of Nursing, the following minimum criteria must be met:

1. Acceptance to University of Northwestern – St. Paul, meeting all admission requirements (i.e., completed application and official transcripts).
2. Currently enrolled in or successful completion (with a grade of C or better) of all pre-requisite courses (BIO3145/3145L; BIO3157/3157L; BIO3158/3158L; CHE1021/1021L; ENG1105 or ENG1107; MAT-prefix course; PHI2016; PSY2108) or their equivalents as approved by the appropriate Academic Department Chair and/or Registrar. All prerequisite courses or their equivalents must be completed by the start of Term 1 of the nursing program.
3. Currently enrolled in or successful completion of core curriculum courses. Students may enter the program with up to 15 remaining credits from non-prerequisite courses. All core curriculum courses must be completed by the end of Term 3.
4. Consideration will be given to those with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale) based upon all courses taken and a satisfactory score on the TEAS Entrance Examination (score of 65% or higher). Exceptional applicants will be given highest preference, pending availability, having a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher and a TEAS score above 80.

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BSN Start Date	Terms (Semesters)				Expected Graduation Date
Summer 2024 (Accelerated - May Start)	Term 1 - Summer '24	Term 2 - Fall '24	Term 3 - Spring '25	Term 4 - Summer '25	Sept '25
Fall 2024 (Trad)	Term 1 - Fall '24	Term 2 - Spring '25	Term 3 - Fall '25	Term 4 - Spring '26	May '26
Spring 2025 (Trad)	Term 1 - Spring '25	Term 2 - Fall '25	Term 3 - Spring '26	Term 4 - Fall '26	Dec '26
Fall 2025 (Trad and Accel)	Term 1 - Fall '25	Term 2 - Spring '26	Term 3 - (Accel) Summer '26	Term 4 - (Accel) Fall '26	Accel Dec '26
			Term 3 - (Trad) Fall '26	Term 4 - (Trad) Spring '27	Trad May '26

Retention in the Nursing Program

Retention in the Nursing Program is based on the following:

1. Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75.
2. Maintain a GPA of at least 2.75 in the major.
3. Meet all minimum grade requirements as defined for core curriculum courses in the university catalog and for NUR courses in the School of Nursing Handbook.
4. Abide by established university and school policies on academic integrity and upholding community and professional standards.
5. Maintain all student health clearance/immunization requirements, BLS requirement and criminal background screening, with supporting documentation demonstrating current (non-expired) records.

If the appropriate GPAs are not maintained, the School of Nursing may place the student on probation, dismiss the student from the nursing program, or to counsel the student into another program area.

A single nursing course (NUR prefix) may only be repeated one time, with a maximum of two (2) nursing courses (NUR prefix) total repeated within the program. This includes whether the student failed or withdrew from the course ("W" notation on transcript). The student who fails or withdraws from a third nursing course, or failed a single nursing course during the second attempt, will immediately be dismissed from the School of Nursing. All dismissal cases may be appealed.

In the event that a student withdraws from a nursing (NUR prefix) course due to extenuating circumstances, the student may appeal to the Admission and Progression committee to repeat the course without penalty.

Dismissed students need to turn in all uniforms and ID badges within 30 days of notification of dismissal.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, the student may petition the Admission and Progression Committee within 3 weeks (21 days) requesting permission to continue in the nursing program. Admission to the subsequent semester is not guaranteed.

Upon the first or second failure or withdrawal of any nursing course (NUR prefix) in the program, the student must write a letter to the Admission and Progression Committee of the School of Nursing, notifying the committee of 1) their intent to continue in the nursing program; 2) their preferred term to repeat the nursing course(s); and 3) strategies taken to ensure success in the repeated course(s). The Admission and Progression Committee of the School of Nursing will make final decisions based on course availability.

All nursing courses (NUR prefix) in a term must be repeated successfully prior to taking subsequent nursing courses. A student must have completed all NUR courses from term 1 to enter term 2, all NUR courses and BIO 3159 from term 2 to enter term 3, and all NUR courses from term 3 to enter term 4 nursing courses.

All non-nursing courses must be completed with submission receipt of final official transcript(s) to the Registrar by the start of Term 4 of the Nursing program. Failure to meet sequential progression requirements will delay progression of the student within the Nursing program according to the curriculum plan.

Readmission in the Nursing Program

A student who wishes to be readmitted to the nursing program after a formal departure, having completed a scheduled exit interview with the Chief Nurse Administrator, must reapply to the School of Nursing for consideration of admission. Any student readmitted to the program will be required to:

- Meet university and program admission criteria prior to readmission.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.00 scale.
- Demonstrate a satisfactory level of knowledge from prerequisite nursing courses.
- Demonstrate successful competency of safe and accurate medication calculations and administration (if applicable).
- Demonstrate successful competencies in all clinical skills previously taken.

A readmitted student will be expected to meet graduation requirements in effect at the time of readmission and to follow the School of Nursing's program policies in effect for that academic year.

Appeals Process

SCHOOL OF NURSING ACTIONS

The School of Nursing Appeals Committee will consider academic matters concerning the relationship between nursing students and the School of Nursing. Examples of academic matters which the committee will consider are listed below:

- Admission to the nursing program
- Dismissal from the School of Nursing program
- Actions of the Admission and Progression Committee

Detailed information about the appeals process is available in the School of Nursing Student Handbook.

NCLEX-RN® Examination and Application for Licensure

Completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pre-licensure program is a necessary requirement for, but does not guarantee eligibility to take the NCLEX-RN® Examination. Please refer to the appropriate state board of nursing where licensure is desired, for full eligibility requirements. The board of nursing decides on candidate eligibility to take the NCLEX-RN® Examination. Links to all boards of nursing websites and contact information is available through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) website: [ncsbn.org](https://www.ncsbn.org). NCSBN also provides general information about the NCLEX-RN® examination, including its development and information regarding examination administration.

Criminal Offenses

According to Minnesota Statute 135A.157, students need to be aware "...that arrests, charges, or convictions of criminal offenses may limit employment possibilities in specific careers and occupations [such as the nursing profession] and may limit their ability to obtain federal, state, and other financial aid..." For more information regarding the nursing profession within the state of Minnesota, please contact the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

NURSING

Nursing Major

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) major is a pre-licensure program that prepares students for the candidate's licensure examination, known as NCLEX-RN®. There are two paths within the nursing program: the accelerated path and the traditional path. Both paths have the same content and a mix of traditional, transfer, and post baccalaureate students (i.e., students who hold a bachelor's degree in another field from an accredited institution of higher learning).

The degree for traditional undergraduate students is granted upon the completion of credits specified below and on pages 48–49 (40 credits must be successfully completed in 3000- or 4000-level courses).

NOTE: Due to the rigorous nature of the program, students are strongly encouraged to limit outside employment while enrolled.

The following must be completed before beginning Term 1 Nursing courses:

- All designated core curriculum courses as outlined in the curriculum plan.
- All prerequisite courses or their equivalents (minimum grade of C required): BIO3145/3145L, BIO3157/3157L, BIO3158/3158L, BIO3159, CHE1021/1021L, ENG1105 or ENG1107, MAT-prefix course, PHI2016, PSY2108

Traditional Undergraduate Specific Core Curriculum Courses

- Students in the Accelerated track may enter the program with up to 10 remaining credits from non-prerequisite courses.
- Students in the Traditional track may enter the program with up to 12 remaining credits from non-prerequisite courses.
- All prerequisite courses or their equivalents must be completed by the start of Term 1 of the nursing courses.
- All core curriculum courses must be completed by the end of Term 3.
- **Leadership & Professionalism** course in core curriculum: NUR4316 instead of LDR4425.
- **Theological Philosophy** course in core curriculum: PHI2016
- **Scientific & Quantitative Literacy** courses in core curriculum: natural science course BIO1011/1011L; social science course PSY2108

Prerequisite Science Courses 19 cr

Minimum grade of C required.

BIO3145/3145L	Microbiology . . . . .	.4
BIO3157/3157L	Human Anatomy . . . . .	.4
BIO3158/3158L	Human Physiology . . . . .	.4
BIO3159	Pathophysiology . . . . .	.3
CHE1021/1021L	Principles of Chemistry I . . . . .	.4

Nursing Term Courses 45 cr

Minimum grade of C required in all NUR courses.

Term 1

NUR2215	Professional Nursing: Called to Serve . . . . .	.2
NUR2216	Assessment & Communication Strategies for Service . . . . .	.4
NUR2218	Foundational Adult Care Services . . . . .	.6

Term 2

NUR3215	Pharmacology and Therapeutic Services . . . . .	.3
NUR3216	Advanced Adult Care Services . . . . .	.7
NUR3217	Serving through Interprofessional Collaboration. . . . .	.2

Term 3

NUR3315	Infant Child Family Care Services. . . . .	.6
NUR3316	Psychiatric-Mental Health Care Services . . . . .	.3
NUR3317	Serving Transcultural Populations (SEE CULTURAL & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT IN CORE CURRICULUM)	

Term 4

NUR4315	Evidence-Based Services. . . . .	.3
NUR4316	Leadership & Management in Healthcare (SEE LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONALISM REQUIREMENT ABOVE)	
NUR4317	Community and Population-Based Care Services. . . . .	.4
NUR4318	Synthesis of Care Services. . . . .	.3
NUR4319	NCLEX-RN Preparation for Service. . . . .	.2 (last 4 weeks of the Term)

Post-Baccalaureate Student

Post-Baccalaureate Required Core Curriculum Courses (22–24 credits)

BIA1007	Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 Honors) . . . . .	.2
BIA1015	Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 Honors). . . . .	.2
BIB4360	Systematic Theology (or BIB4825 Honors) or	
BIB4365	Historical Theology or BIB4460 Biblical Theology . . . . .	.4
LDR3415	The Self-aware Leader. . . . .	.0-2

ENG1107	College Writing & Research . . . . .	.4
MAT-prefix course	. . . . .	.2-4
PHI2016	Ethics (SEE THEOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY REQUIREMENT ABOVE)	
PSY2108	Lifespan Psychology (SEE SCIENTIFIC & QUANTITATIVE LITERACY REQUIREMENT ABOVE)	