

Important!

UO does not have a nursing major. The course plan in this handout is designed to meet pre-requisites for OHSU/OCNE entrance requirements for the BS in nursing ONLY. It is your responsibility to contact the nursing schools you would like to attend for specific information to be sure you meet all necessary requirements. Call Academic Advising (541-346-3211) to schedule an appointment for course planning assistance.

Academic Advising and Pre-Nursing Objective

Each student has an opportunity to be advised by a Pre-Health Advisor in the Office of Academic Advising (OAA). Call (541) 346-3211 to schedule an appointment. Please see your academic advisor on a regular basis to confirm you are on track for your degree and nursing admission.

In order for the pre-health advisors to communicate directly to you and your interests, it is highly recommended to declare a Pre-Nursing Professional Objective. To do so, email *health@uoregon.edu* with your name and University of Oregon (UO) ID number, or fill out a form in the OAA.

You are also encouraged to sign up for the Pre-Health mailing list, which provides students with timely announcements and a monthly newsletter. OAA also has a Pre-Health facebook page, located at *facebook.com/uo.prehealthadvising*, which is where more health information can be found.

Undergraduate Paths in Nursing

General Information

There are many different educational paths to nursing as well as many different types of nursing degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level. While UO does not have a nursing degree, it is possible to complete the prerequisites to apply for transfer to an associate degree in nursing (ASN) at a community college, or a standard or accelerated bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) at a four year college or university.

Associate Degree in Nursing (ASN)

These programs are generally available at community colleges. The ASN program balances content with general studies and nursing education. The program offers a wide variety of clinical nursing experiences and prepares graduates to deliver direct care to patients. Once the nursing prerequisites are completed, it is common for the student to complete the nursing course requirements in two years. Many ADN programs are designed to be “articulated” (serve as a bridge to) baccalaureate degree programs or RN to masters completion programs. The student should ask what arrangements have been made between the ADN program and bachelor’s or master’s programs.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

These degree programs are generally four academic years in length and are located in senior colleges or universities. The AACN and other leading nursing organizations, “recognize the BSN degree as the minimum educational requirement for professional nursing practice.” The course of study combines the theory and the practice of nursing, with general education in the humanities and behavioral, biological, and physical sciences. These serve as a core for the development of the nursing major. The BSN program offers students experience in major settings where health care is delivered. Baccalaureate education prepares graduates for entrance into graduate study at the master’s degree level, which is a minimum requirement for teaching, administration, clinical specialization, and nursing research.

Accelerated Baccalaureate Programs

These degree programs offer the quickest route to licensure as an RN for adults who have already completed a bachelor or graduate degree in a non-nursing discipline. These programs can take between 11-18 months to complete, including prerequisites.

Degree Routes to a BSN in Oregon

There are various routes to a BSN:

- Complete the degree at a 4-year school offering the BSN, such as Linfield College or the University of Portland.
- Complete the prerequisite courses at a community college or a four-year school and transfer to an accredited school of nursing, such as Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing (OHSU), Linfield College, or University of Portland.
- Complete prerequisite courses at one of eight community colleges participating in the OCNE (Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education) program. Students in good standing are eligible to continue from an associates degree to a B.S. in nursing from OHSU offered on those campuses. Go to www.ocne.org for more information.
- Complete a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing major and then apply to a nursing school that offers an accelerated B.S. in nursing or an entry-level graduate program (programs designed for non-nursing majors wishing to pursue a master's or doctorate in nursing).

Degree Route Comparison Chart

ASN	BSN	ACC BAC
2-year program	4-year program	11-18 month program after bachelor's degree
Community College	College/University	College/University
Entry-level nursing degree for technical nursing practice	Entry point for professional nursing practice	Alternate entry point for professional nursing practice

Recommended University of Oregon Curriculum

Although prerequisites vary from program to program, the following courses are examples of common prerequisites for transfer to a four year school offering a BSN **or** applying to an accelerated BSN after completing a UO bachelors degree: In general, it will take roughly two years to complete the prerequisite coursework for both the traditional and accelerated BSN programs. The following coursework may be required by many Nursing schools

- Human Anatomy and Physiology w/labs
- General Psychology and/or Developmental Psychology (Lifespan)
- Nutrition (required or strongly recommended)
- Microbiology w/lab
- Statistics
- General Chemistry and/or Biology

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is an excellent resource to begin a search for baccalaureate level nursing programs at www.aacn.nche.edu. State boards of nursing, such as Oregon State Board of Nursing at www.osbn.state.or.us are also excellent resources for locating nursing programs by state.

OCNE Pre-Nursing Curriculum

SAMPLE PLAN FOR OCNE ONLY

The courses in **bold** are required prerequisites for OCNE. All other courses are prerequisites required by UO or suggested courses. OCNE requires competency in MATH 95 or higher. A minimum 3.0 GPA in the prerequisite courses is required for eligibility of application review. **THIS IS A SAMPLE PLAN. ALL STUDENTS should speak with a pre-health advisor to discuss their course plan**, and students planning to apply for other programs in addition to OCNE (i.e. OHSU Accelerated B.S. in nursing, Linfield, University of Portland, etc) **MUST** see an advisor for course planning.

First Year

Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
WR 121	WR 122	HPHY 105
CH 111 ⁴	BI 211	BI 212
SOC 204 ¹	PSY 201 ³	MATH 243 ²
Elective ¹	Elective ¹	Elective ¹
(14-16 cr)	(15-16 cr)	(16 cr)

Second Year

HPHY 321	HPHY 323	HPHY 325
HPHY 322	HPHY 324	PSY 215 OR 235³ (@LCC)
Elective ¹	Elective ¹	Elective ¹
(14 cr)	(14 cr)	(12-16 cr)

TOTAL CREDITS = 87-91

(PREREQUISITE CREDITS NEEDED FOR OCNE=45)

Comments

¹ At least 1 elective course should come from the Arts & Letters group and 2 should come from the Social Science group. Other electives should be letter graded courses (additional Arts and Letters or Social Science courses are recommended).

² MATH 243 is NOT required for admission, however it is required to earn the B.S. in the OCNE program.

³ UO does not offer lifespan development. LCC has one course that covers lifespan (PSY 215) OR students may opt to take a two-course LCC sequence (PSY 235 in winter and PSY 236 in spring). PSY 201 is a prerequisite to PSY 215 or PSY 235.

⁴ This Chemistry course is enough to apply for the OCNE program. Outside of the OCNE program, many other nursing schools require Microbiology. You may need to take more sequencing of CH and BI as prerequisites. Please consult with an academic advisor.

Advanced Nursing Degree Specialties

Nurses with advanced degrees are RN's with additional education and experience, who work independently or in collaboration with physicians. Most require a master's degree and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) may be required to apply. Some advanced degree programs offer an "Entry Level" Master's of Science in Nursing (for students with a bachelors degree in something other than nursing) with an emphasis in the following:

Nurse Practitioners

Among their clinical roles, nurse practitioners (NPs) conduct physical exams; diagnose and treat common acute illnesses and injuries; provide immunizations; manage high blood pressure, diabetes, and other chronic problems; order and interpret X-rays and other lab tests; and counsel patients on adopting healthy lifestyles and health care options. In addition to practicing in clinics and hospitals in metropolitan areas, the nation's estimated 158,348 nurse practitioners also deliver care in rural sites, inner cities, and other locations not adequately served by physicians, as well as to other populations, such as children in schools and the elderly. Many NPs work in pediatrics, family health, women's health, gerontology, and other specialties, and some have private practices. Nurse practitioners can prescribe medications in all states, while 23 states have given NPs authority to practice independently without physician collaboration or supervision.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs)

Provide care in a range of specialty areas, such as cardiac, oncology, neonatal, and obstetric/gynecological nursing, as well as pediatrics, neurological nursing, and psychiatric/mental health. Working in hospitals and other clinical sites, CNSs provide acute care and mental health services, develop quality assurance procedures, and serve as educators and consultants. An estimated 59,242 clinical nurse specialists are currently in practice.

Nurse Midwives

The nation's approximately 18,492 certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) provide prenatal and gynecological care to normal

healthy women; deliver babies in hospitals, private homes, and birthing centers; and continue with follow-up postpartum care. CNMs attend over 10% of the births in the U.S.; 96% of these births are in hospitals.

Nurse Anesthetists

More than 34,821 certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) administer more than 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year. Of the 24 million anesthetics given annually, about 20 percent are administered by CRNAs practicing independently and 80 percent by CRNAs in collaboration with physician anesthesiologists, says AANA. Working in the oldest of the advanced nursing specialties, CRNAs administer anesthesia for all types of surgery in settings ranging from operating rooms and dental offices to outpatient surgical centers.

Of Special Interest

At the end of nursing school at either a community college or a four-year college, students will take an examination called the National Council Examination (NCLEX) in order to earn their licence.

Job outlook for Nurses

According to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, “By 2020, 800,000 RN positions are expected to go unfilled nationwide.” With the world population living longer and needing more care, the healthcare field is one of the best places to get a job, and will likely stay that way for many years to come.

Occupational options for Nurses

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average annual earnings of registered nurses in May 2008 were \$52,450.

Average annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of registered nurses in May 2008 ranged from \$58,740-\$68,450. Income varies depending on the nurse’s educational level, position and setting.

Chances for Admission: Self Evaluation

The best way to assess your chances for gaining admission to medical school begins with a review of selection features.

Admission to nursing school is highly competitive, and more student apply than can be admitted. Early planning and preparation is virtually essential for improving your chances for successful admission. Do not fall into the “trap of the minimums,” as virtually no one with just the minimums gets into medical school. Going above and beyond the minimum admission requirements is a very good thing! Over and over again, admission websites and committees stress the importance of the “whole candidate,” representing your academics, extra-curricular activities, leadership, motivation, experience and character. Above all, there is no guarantee of being accepted. Even the most qualified candidates may have to apply more than once.

Residence

The likelihood of acceptance is greatest at the public institutions in the state of which you are a resident. OHSU/OCNE does accept non-residents. Private schools do not preference residents and therefore all applicants are considered.

Academic Record

The GPA is critical in selection. While schools report the minimum GPA as 3.0 to 3.25, it is highly unlikely that students will be admitted without a GPA of 3.8 or higher. The reality of applying to nursing school is that there are not enough seats for students wanting to be nurses, thus making lower GPAs much less likely for admission.

Minority Students

All U.S. public and private schools are seeking underrepresented minority and other non-traditional applicants. Contact a pre-medical advisor for information.

Websites for more information and which provided materials for this handout include:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
www.aacn.nche.edu/

Oregon State Board of Nursing
www.osbn.state.or.us

Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education
www.ocne.org

Linfield College: School of Nursing
www.linfield.edu/portland/nursing/index.html

Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing
www.ohsu.edu/son

University of Portland School of Nursing
www.nursing.up.edu

All Nursing Schools
www.allnursingschools.com

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
www.aanp.org

Johnson and Johnson Discover Nursing
www.discovernursing.com

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