2016 Upper Division Admission Application Instructions and FAQ

Thank you for your interest in our Upper Division Admission program. This document is designed to guide your application process. It is your responsibility to understand and complete all requirements for admission consideration. If you have any questions that are not answered here or on our Nursing website, please contact the Nursing Academic Programs Office at (608) 263-5166 or ugadmit@son.wisc.edu.

Application Eligibility

We admit students to our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program once a year to start in the fall. The application opens December 1 and the deadline is February 1. In order to be eligible to apply, you must, at the time of application:

1. Be in progress to complete at least 54 degree credits of college-level course work by the end of the spring semester,
2. Have a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) at the end of the fall semester and again at the end of the spring semester,
3. Have completed or have in progress four of the seven prerequisite courses by the end of the fall semester, and be enrolled to complete all seven by the end of the spring semester, and
4. Have a minimum cumulative prerequisite GPA of 2.75 on all prerequisites completed to date and complete all seven with at least a 2.75 GPA

Students who are already enrolled in a professional nursing program at another institution are not eligible to apply.

Admission Considerations

We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, as well as leadership, community service, creativity, talent, and enthusiasm. Admission is offered to students who present the strongest overall applications and who are anticipated to contribute the most to the class, school, and university. Admission is highly competitive and based on a thorough and holistic evaluation of each application. Factors/attributes considered include academic preparation and performance, leadership, extracurricular activities and service, health care experience and professional goals, the quality of the application statements/essays, and diversity in experience and background.

Prerequisite Course Work

Complete details on our prerequisite courses can be found on our admissions website. The seven prerequisites are chemistry, microbiology, human anatomy, human physiology, psychology, sociology, and human growth and development. A few notes:

- Online courses cannot be used to fulfill prerequisites in chemistry, microbiology, anatomy, and physiology. The online section of ANAT 328 at UW–Madison is the exception to this policy.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) scores of 4 or 5 can be used to satisfy the chemistry and psychology prerequisites.
- Students who take anatomy and physiology at another institution as part of a two-course sequence (i.e., A&P I, A&P II) must complete both courses at the same institution.
- UW–Madison students are expected to complete their nursing prerequisite course work at UW–Madison.
- Applicants who complete prerequisites at another institution may be asked to submit course descriptions and/or syllabi so that we can determine equivalencies. If this is the case, you will receive an email from our Nursing Academic Programs Office. You will have up to 48 hours to submit requested documents.
- Students attending institutions on the quarter system must plan ahead to complete four of the seven prerequisites by the end of the winter quarter (by April 1) and all seven prerequisites by the end of the spring quarter (by June 15). All prerequisites must be graded and transcripted by June 15.
Application Process

Students who meet our eligibility requirements apply to enter the nursing program for the fall term.

Step 1: Apply to UW–Madison

- If you are not currently enrolled at UW–Madison, you must apply to the university in addition to applying to the nursing program; two separate applications are required. This applies to prospective transfer students, reentry students, second-degree candidates, and University Special Students. Current UW–Madison students complete Step 2 (top of next column) only.
- You apply to the university’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment using the online application.
- You should indicate an intended major of Nursing on the application.
- The university application opens September 1.
- The deadline for the fall term is February 1. In order to be eligible for the nursing program, your university application must be complete by the February 1 deadline. This means the university’s admission office must have received your online application, application fee, and official high school and college transcripts by the February 1 deadline. You can check your university application status online and also monitor receipt of your application materials. If your application is not complete by February 1, you will be ineligible for admission consideration to the nursing program. Refer to FAQ #5 for more information.
- You will receive an application acknowledgement via email from the UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment when your application is received. This confirmation will include your Campus ID number, which can then be used to activate your NetID. You will need your NetID to complete the application to the nursing program. Application acknowledgement and NetID activation can take up to 48 hours. Plan accordingly.
- University admission notification takes place by the end of April. You can check the status of your UW–Madison application with the online application status check tool.
- We will proceed with our nursing application review while your university application is being processed and pending a decision with the university’s admissions office.
- Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program.

Step 2: Apply to the Nursing Program

- All students (current UW–Madison and prospective) must complete the School of Nursing online application.
- The application is available on the School of Nursing website on December 1. The deadline is February 1.
- There is no fee to submit the nursing application.
- You will need your NetID to access the nursing application. As noted above, if you are applying to UW–Madison as a transfer, reentry, or second-degree candidate, you will receive your Campus ID number (which is used to activate your NetID), approximately 48 hours after you submit your university application. You will therefore need to submit your university application well in advance of the February 1 deadline to give yourself time to receive your Campus ID number, activate your NetID, and complete the nursing application.
- The School of Nursing will notify you of our admission decision in mid-May via email.

Nursing Program Application Details

There are four main sections to the nursing application:

1. Personal and Applicant Information
   - These are simple fill-in-the-blank questions, such as name, contact information, and residency information.
   - We will ask for your email address. This is the address to which we will send all official admission communications. UW–Madison students should list your @wisc.edu address.

2. Academic Information and Educational History
   - In this section, you will be asked to list all the colleges and universities you’ve attended to date, including dates of attendance, total credits received, and degree(s) earned.
   - You will be asked to complete a table indicating how and where you completed the seven prerequisite courses.

3. Activities Table
   - For the Activities Table, you will be asked to list your 3–5 most notable activities or accomplishments. This can include organizations, leadership roles, community service, employment, personal activities, honors, or awards.
   - Ideally some activities you include will be related to health care and/or nursing.
   - You will include the amount of time you dedicated to the activity, as well as a more detailed description of your participation or accomplishment.
4. Personal Statements (Essays)
   • There are four required Personal Statement prompts for all applicants, an optional prompt, and one reapplication essay required for students who have applied in the past.
   • These statements/essays are your opportunity to help us understand more about you, who you are, and what you hope to accomplish as part of our School of Nursing and in your career.
   • Applicants who are reapplying should submit responses different from those previously submitted and should be sure to complete the reapplication essay. Responses should highlight the steps you’ve taken to strengthen your candidacy—additional course work, changes in personal life, extracurricular engagements, etc.
   • Each response is limited to 1,000 characters. The essay boxes on the application will not accept more than 1,000 characters, including spaces and punctuation, per prompt. One thousand characters is approximately 200 words.
   • The Personal Statement prompts for 2016 will be available on the nursing website in early November.

Transcripts
We do not require applicants to submit a set of transcripts with their nursing program application. We will review college-level transcripts for all applicants (current UW–Madison and transfer, reentry, and second-degree students). However, instead of requiring you to send our nursing program your transcripts, we will access the official transcripts you submit as part of your university application. If we are unable to access your transcripts, we will require you to send us an official copy.

Spring Term Proof of Enrollment
If you are taking course work not at UW–Madison during the spring term, we must receive proof of enrollment. This applies to prospective transfer students taking course work at another institution during the spring term, for example. If the official transcript you submit to the university’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment lists your spring term course work, you do not need to submit anything additional to the School of Nursing. If the transcript(s) you submit does not include spring course work in progress or if you’re not sure if it does, you must submit proof of enrollment directly to the Nursing Academic Programs Office. To do so, send a PDF or screen capture of your spring term schedule as an attachment to ugadmit@son.wisc.edu. In the subject line, type, “Proof of Enrollment” followed by your 10-digit Campus ID number. We must receive this proof of enrollment by February 1. Students applying from quarter-system schools must submit proof of enrollment for both the winter and spring quarters by February 15.

Calculating Cumulative and Prerequisite GPAs
As detailed in the Admission Eligibility section (page 1), to be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative and prerequisite GPA.

For the cumulative GPA:
   • We calculate this GPA using all undergraduate college-level course work completed.
   • You must have the minimum 2.75 at the end of the fall term and again at the end of the spring term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program. If after the spring term your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.75, your admission to the nursing program will be revoked.
   • All course attempts are factored into this equation.
   • Course work that is remedial, vocational, or doctrinal in nature will not be factored into the equation. This includes Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course work.

For the prerequisite GPA:
   • The average of all seven prerequisite courses must equal at least 2.75. A single course can be below that level as long as the average is a 2.75 or above.
   • You must have the minimum 2.75 prerequisite GPA at the end of the fall term and again at the end of the spring term to be eligible for admission and entry to the program. If after the spring term your prerequisite GPA drops below a 2.75, your admission to the nursing program will be revoked.
   • When more than one course has been completed that will satisfy a single prerequisite (e.g., both Chem 103 AND 104), the course outcome that most advantages the student will be used in the calculation. For repeated prerequisites, the most recent attempt is used for Chemistry, Microbiology, Anatomy, Physiology, & Psychology. The higher grade is used for repeated Sociology and Human Growth & Development prerequisites.
   • If you are taking a prerequisite course during the spring term after you’ve applied (you can have up to three prerequisites in progress during the spring term), your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on only the prerequisites completed by the end of the fall term.
   • If you are repeating a prerequisite course during the spring term after you’ve applied, your prerequisite GPA will not be impacted by that retake as we will not know the grade prior to admission review.
• If you earned a 4 or 5 on AP/IB exams and satisfied either the chemistry or psychology prerequisite in this way, your prerequisite GPA will be factored using the remaining courses. For example, if you satisfied psychology with AP, your prerequisite GPA will be calculated based on the remaining six prerequisites.

Admission Decision Notification

Students applying to UW–Madison will receive notification of your admission decision directly from the UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment by the end of April. You can check your university application status and decision online. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program. The School of Nursing will notify you of your admission decision in mid-May via email.

Steps After Admission

Students admitted to the nursing program will receive an admission packet via email within a week of their admission notification. This packet contains vital information and required documentation, including:

• **Response Form:** Students have approximately one week to accept the offer of admission using the Admission Response Form included in the packet.

• **Compliance Requirements:** Admitted students must complete a Caregiver Background Check, become trained in CPR, and submit evidence of health documentation, among other things. Details are included in the admission packet; compliance requirements must be met by the stated summer deadline.

• **Honors Program:** Students who are invited to apply for the Nursing Honors Program (those with a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA), as well as those who wish to apply, must do so by June 1.

• **Spring Term Progress:** Admission is contingent on satisfactory completion of spring term course work, including any prerequisite courses in progress. We will request spring term transcripts from students not currently enrolled at UW–Madison to verify this work.

• **Summer Orientation:** Transfer students will be required to attend UW–Madison’s one-day orientation program called SOAR. Sessions are offered in June, July, and August. Reentry students do not attend SOAR.

• **Welcome Into Nursing Day:** This one-day nursing orientation program is required for all students. It typically occurs the week before classes begin for the fall term.

Rescinding Admission

It is possible for an offer of admission to be revoked. We may revoke admission if you do not complete a prerequisite course, if your spring course work drops your cumulative or prerequisite GPA below the 2.75 minimum, if you have not completed at least 54 degree credits of college-level course work by the end of the spring semester, if you provided false or misleading information on your application or compliance documents, or if your Caregiver Background Check reveals disqualifying information.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How competitive is admission?**
   It’s very competitive. In a typical year, we receive 350–400 applications. There are 150–160 seats in our class. We admit, on average, half of the qualified applicants. The five-year average GPA for admitted students, both cumulative and prerequisite, is a 3.55.

2. **If I’m attending UW–Madison but my student classification (i.e., major) is not pre-nursing, can I apply?**
   Yes, you do not need to be a pre-nursing student to apply to the nursing program. Many are not. Whether or not you are currently classified as a pre-nursing student will have no impact on your admission decision.

3. **Who will review my application?**
   Nursing faculty members on the Undergraduate Admissions and Progression Committee review and make decisions on all applications for admission.

4. **Do you require or accept letters of recommendation?**
   No, we do not require or accept letters of recommendation.

5. **I’m not currently enrolled at UW–Madison so I know I must apply to the university as well as the nursing program. You say I need a complete university application on file by February 1. What does that mean and how serious are you about this requirement?**
   UW–Madison’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment must receive your complete application (the online application, the application fee, and official high school and college transcripts) by February 1 in order for you to be eligible for our nursing program. Just as you can use the university’s application status check website to monitor receipt of your application materials, so can we in the School of Nursing. If the university’s admission office is showing any outstanding requirements (e.g., college transcripts) after February 1, your nursing application will be deemed ineligible and you will not be considered for admission. There are no exceptions.

6. **I applied in the past for Freshman Direct Admission but was not admitted. Is there anything I need to do?**
11. If I’m denied, can I appeal the decision?

Generally speaking, no, you cannot appeal. The only grounds for appeal are a processing error (e.g., GPA miscalculation), or pertinent information not revealed at the time of application (e.g., a learning disability).

15. What if I move or change my email address?

We use the mailing and email addresses supplied on your nursing admission application for all correspondence. It is important both are current. If they change, send an email to ugadmit@son.wisc.edu. Please include your Campus ID number in the message.

16. If I applied in the past, will you use my old application?

You will need to submit a new application to the nursing program. And if you’re not currently a UW–Madison student, you will also need to apply for admission to the university (refer to Step 1 on page 2). The admissions committee will read your prior application as part of its review process. It is important that you use the Activities Table and Personal Statements to showcase your growth since your prior application (refer to pages 2–3).

17. Is there anything special I need to do as an international student applying to your program?

No, if you’re not currently enrolled at UW–Madison and thus are applying both to the university and the nursing program simultaneously, you’ll need to adhere to the international applicant requirements set forth by the university’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment. This includes submission of results from the TOEFL or IELTS exams.

18. I took AP or IB exams but I don’t see the credits/results posted to my UW–Madison transcript or reflected on my Degree Audit Report (DARS). What should I do?

The university’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment receives and posts all exam credit. To earn credit for exams, you must have your official grade reports or transcripts sent directly to the admissions office. Students using AP/IB results to satisfy our prerequisites in chemistry and psychology must be sure the Office of Admissions and Recruitment receives those official score reports by February 1.