

NURSING (RN)

Nurses promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They have a unique scope of practice and can practice independently, although they also collaborate with all members of the healthcare team to provide patient care. Nurses also serve as advocates for patients, families, and communities. They develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health.

The nursing field has a wide range of career pathways, from entry-level practitioner to doctoral-level researcher. The primary pathway to nursing is the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Registered nurses (RN) are prepared either through a four-year baccalaureate program; a two-to three-year associate degree in nursing (ADN); or a three-year hospital diploma program. Post-licensure programs only admit students who are already RNs. However, since USC does not offer a Nursing program, our students have the option of becoming a nurse and obtaining a BSN or MSN through additional ways, which include: **1) Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (A-BSN) programs, which are geared for those without any nursing preparation, but who hold a bachelor's degree in a major field other than nursing.** An A-BSN program is a full time commitment and generally takes 12-24 months to complete depending on the program; or **2) Entry-Level Master of Science in Nursing programs, also accelerated in nature, are geared to non-nursing graduates (non-nurses), and generally takes three years to finish.**

Many nurses eventually wish to enter more advanced practice roles. An APRN is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, which means that this type of RN has earned a graduate-level degree such as an MSN or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and has been specially trained in one of the four recognized APRN roles: Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).

As an undergraduate pre-nursing student at USC, it is important to carefully review the prerequisite course requirements of all programs of interest because they vary from school to school, in some cases greatly. Many programs highly recommend volunteer or work experience in a hospital/clinical setting working directly with patients, and most programs may require the **ATI TEAS exam** and/or the **HESI Admission Assessment Exam (HESI A2)** for admission. Please consult **NursingCAS** or the **American Association of Colleges of Nursing** for specific application requirements. We encourage you to meet with a Pre-Health Advisor at least once a semester to ensure satisfactory progress towards your goals!

COMMON CORE COURSES

Students are responsible for verifying the prerequisite coursework and policies of the schools to which they plan to apply.

Course	# of Courses	USC Course(s)
Biology	1 course is a prerequisite for Physiology	BISC 220L or BISC 221L
Physiology	1 course with lab	BISC 307L or HBIO 420L
Anatomy	1 course with lab	HBIO 301L
Microbiology	1 course with lab NOTE: BISC 220 and BISC 312 or BISC 320 are prerequisites for this course.	BISC 300L
General Chemistry	1 course with lab is required by some schools	CHEM 105aL or CHEM 115AL or CHEM 107L
Statistics	1 course	MATH 114x or BISC 305 or PSYC 274g or equivalent
Writing / English	2 courses	WRIT 150 and WRIT 340
Sociology or Cultural Anthropology	1 course	SOCI 200mg or ANTH 101g
Lifespan Psychology or General Psychology	1 course	Most schools require Lifespan Psychology (no equivalent course at USC). Some will accept PSYCH 100Lg
Public Speaking/Speech/ Interpersonal Communication	1 course Refer to individual school for specific course requirement as it varies.	COMM 204 or COMM 304 or equivalent course
Biochemistry or Organic Chemistry	1 course may be required by some schools	BISC 312 or CHEM 350g or CHEM 322aL
Nutrition	1 course is required by some schools	HBIO 202g or HP 230
Pathophysiology and/or Pharmacology	1 or 2 courses may be required by some A-BSN school.	Pharmacology: RXRS 302 Pathophysiology: no equivalent course

DID YOU KNOW?

- A science major is not required. Students should choose a major based on their interests and an area that they find exciting, which at the same time, will keep them academically competitive.
- The difference between ABSN and Entry-Level MSN students are their short-term career goals. ABSN students want to make a difference through direct patient care and take the fastest pathway to the nursing profession. MSN students want to pursue nursing and progress to leadership or advanced nursing roles.
- ABSN and Entry-Level MSN programs have differing policies for accepting AP/IB credits to fulfill prerequisites. Refer to individual schools
- Most nursing prerequisite coursework (especially the sciences) must be a grade of "B" or higher.
- **NursingCAS** is the central application service for many Entry-Level MSN programs; for ABSN programs, applicants should apply directly to the program through the institution..
- Both ABSN and Entry-Level MSN programs qualify students to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN), which one must pass to obtain a nursing license.
- Many ABSN and Entry-Level MSN programs require 2 to 3 letters of evaluation as part of the admissions process.