Admission to the School of Nursing

School of Nursing
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Admission Requirements

The School of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). There are two degree curricula available to pursue the BSN: a Traditional BSN and an RN to BSN. Students apply for a degree program based upon their previous academic background. To be eligible to apply to the RN-BSN program, students must be a licensed registered nurse.

Admission to the School of Nursing is a two-level process for the traditional degree program; lower division and upper division. Students must be admitted to the lower division of the degree program to be eligible to apply to the upper division of the degree program. Admission to the lower division does not guarantee admission to the upper division. Admission to the upper division of the degree program is selective.

Admission to the Lower Division

Students may be admitted directly to the School of Nursing’s lower division (pre-professional) if the minimum admission standards and university deadlines are met. Admission applications must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Applications are available online through the university’s website. Admission to the lower division (pre-professional) does not guarantee admission to the upper division (professional curriculum).

Freshmen and transfers with fewer than 24 hours of college credit to apply to the lower division, applicants must:

• Submit an official high school transcript
• Submit all official transcripts from all outside college coursework, if applicable
• Submit one of the following exam scores: ACT, SAT, or Accuplacer.

To be admitted to the lower division in good standing, beginning freshmen and transfer applicants with less than 24 hours of college credit must meet the following requirements:

• Graduation from an accredited high school with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or have an appropriate GED score, or equivalent by petition (for example, home school education).
• Minimum ACT Composite score of 22; SAT minimum score 1100
• Minimum Math ACT sub-score of 22; SATM minimum score 540
• Minimum college grade point average of 2.8, if applicable
• Accuplacer scores may be used in place of the ACT/SAT. Minimum required scores: QRAS Math score of 250, Reading score of 244.

Transfer Students with More Than 24 Hours of College Credit

Students must meet the admissions requirements for transfer students with more than 24 hours. For admissions into the lower division, applicants must have a minimum cumulative college grade point average of 2.8 (on a 4 point scale) in all undergraduate college course work.

• Submit all official transcripts from all outside college coursework to the Office of Admissions. Mail to or request mailing to:

University of Louisville Students Changing Majors

Students who have completed at least one semester in another school of the University of Louisville and have a minimum college grade point average of 2.8 may apply to the School of Nursing. They must complete an online change of major form that can be found on the university website. Students admitted through this process must be advised before registering for courses in their first semester in the nursing program.

Admission to the Upper Division

Traditional BSN Degree

Admission to the upper division is selective.

Students that are admitted into the upper division professional nursing curriculum will be required to meet all clinical compliance requirements prior to entering any clinical facilities.

To be considered for admission, applicants must:

• Have completed the lower division (pre-professional) curriculum or be in the last semester of completion (see Degree Programs- Nursing).
• Have earned a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.8. The cumulative grade point average for admission to upper division nursing is calculated based on all course work.

All documents are submitted to the Office of Admissions. Mail to or request mailing to:

The Office of Admissions
Dept. AO
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292.

Admission in Good Standing

To be admitted to the lower division in good standing, beginning freshmen and transfer applicants with less than 24 hours of college credit must meet the following requirements:
completed at accredited post-secondary institutions. Transfer credit and transfer GPA is determined by the Office of Transfer Articulation in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

- Have earned a minimum lower division (pre-professional) program grade point average of 3.0. The lower division program grade point average is based on required lower division curriculum course work as determined by the nursing faculty.
- Earn a C or higher in required sciences, nutrition, math, English, and nursing courses. Science courses must have been completed within the last 10 years. Students must submit an application for acceptance of sciences taken prior to the last 10 years to the School of Nursing Office of Student Services. Appropriate faculty and/or administrators will review the request. Consideration will only be given to those with experience in the science in which exception is being requested. Transfer credit for science courses taken prior to the last 10 years will be evaluated on an individual basis. There can be no outstanding incomplete grades prior to beginning nursing courses.

Students admitted as a first-time University of Louisville freshman will have 0.2 points added to their program grade point average for ranking during review of upper division applications.

**Applying to the Upper Division**

To apply to the upper division, a student must:

- Submit a University of Louisville Undergraduate Application if new to UofL, or submit an online change of major form if already enrolled in a school other than the School of Nursing at UofL.
- Submit a written essay, narrative, or short story describing your personal qualities and how they fit you for a career in nursing, your perception of the nursing field and what influenced you to select nursing as a career.
- Submit a certified criminal background check. Details on the School of Nursing website.
- Complete the interview process (if requested).
- Applications and credentials must be received by the following deadlines:
  - May 1 for Fall admission - traditional program
  - September 15 for Spring admission - traditional program

**NOTE:** An unsatisfactory background check may prevent a student from being admitted into the program and/or licensed as a registered nurse. Questions regarding licensing should be addressed with the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

The appropriate undergraduate committees must evaluate applicants for acceptance to an upper division clinical cohort. The committee decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. Admissions are contingent on successful completion of the lower division (pre-professional) curriculum. Accepted students will receive a letter of agreement stating the anticipated start date, the conditions for accepting the space, and consequences of failing to keep the space. The letter of agreement must be signed and returned within 10 working days of receipt to assure a space in the upper division clinical cohort. All qualified students who meet admission criteria but are not accepted into the requested upper division clinical cohort due to space constraints should meet with their advisor.

**Guaranteed Early Admission (GEA) Native College Freshmen**

The Guaranteed Early Admission (GEA) program is available to first year University of Louisville freshmen. Forty spaces are reserved in upper division each academic year for first year, full time college freshmen, who enter the University of Louisville in the Fall semester. First year college freshmen apply upon completion of their first year of college for a guaranteed admission to a specific upper division cohort. These spaces are awarded based upon the student’s competitive application. Transfer students are not eligible.

To be considered as a first year freshman for guaranteed admission to the upper division, an applicant must:

- Successfully complete NURS 101 with a minimum grade of B.
- Successfully complete the first year of full time coursework with a minimum 3.25 GPA.
- Completion of two required science courses (CHEM 105 and BIOL 102 or their equivalent) with minimum grades of B.

**Application requirements:**

- An essay of 500 words or less describing your interest in a career in nursing.
- School of Nursing Application for GEA available on SON website or from professional advisor.
- Deadline is April 1 each year.

To maintain GEA status:

- Accept a start date to begin upper division courses for a specific semester.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0 each semester of enrollment in the lower division.

**Direct Admission Program for High School Seniors**

The Direct Admissions program is available to high school seniors that plan to enroll as first time freshman at the University of Louisville and major in nursing. A minimum of ten spaces are reserved each academic year. These spaces are awarded based on the student’s competitive application. Students apply while enrolled in their senior year of high school.

To be considered as a high school senior for direct admission into upper division, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- minimum high school grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted)
- minimum ACT composite score of 25 or SAT 1200
- minimum Math ACT sub-score of 25 or SATM 590

**Application Requirements:**

- An essay of 500 words or less describing your interest in a career in nursing.
- School of Nursing Direct Admit application, available on the School of Nursing website.
- Deadline is November 15th of student’s senior year of high school.

To Maintain Direct Admit Status:
Accept a specific fall semester upper division start date. If an earlier start date is determined possible by the nursing academic advisor in the first semester of enrollment at UofL, a spring upper division semester start date may be approved by request.

Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 each semester of enrollment in lower division.

No repeats of required science or nursing courses: BIOL 102, CHEM 105, BIOL 260, BIOL 261, BIOL 262, BIOL 257, BIOL 258, NURS 338, NURS 395.

Must complete a minimum of 5 science courses, with labs, during freshman year of college: BIOL 102, CHEM 105, BIOL 260, BIOL 261, BIOL 262, BIOL 257, BIOL 258.

**Admission to RN-BSN Program**

Students may be admitted directly into the RN-BSN program if the admissions requirements are met.

To apply to the program, applicants must:

- Submit a University of Louisville undergraduate admissions application. Undergraduate admission application deadlines may be obtained from the University of Louisville website.
- Submit all official college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Mail to or request mailing to:
  
  The Office of Admissions
  Department AO
  University of Louisville
  Louisville, KY 40292

  Admissions requirements for direct admissions into the RN-BSN program:

  - minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all college work.
  - unrestricted Registered Nurse license or eligible to take NCLEX.
  - may be required to submit a certified criminal background check.
  
  Details on the School of Nursing website.

**Additional Transfer Student Information**

**Awarding of transfer credit**

A student may earn college credit through a variety of mechanisms. Therefore, students seeking advanced standing through transfer of credit should seek advice from the Office of Student Services, School of Nursing, as soon as possible. Individual evaluations include:

1. Courses from accredited colleges and universities.
2. Course descriptions and outlines.
3. CLEP examinations.
4. Advanced Placement examinations.
5. Portfolio documentation, RN-BSN program only. Students in the RN-BSN program will receive 30 college credits from the university after successful completion of the portfolio course.
6. General Education Block Certifications by accredited Kentucky institutions are recognized.
7. The School of Nursing has a ten-year limit on science courses. Transfer credit for science courses taken prior to the last 10 years will be evaluated on an individual basis.
8. Other transfer courses are evaluated on an individual basis for currency and equivalency to required courses in the nursing curriculum. Science, English, and nursing courses taken at another college or university must have been passed with a grade of C or better in order to be transferred into the nursing curriculum. Generally, only courses equivalent to pharmacology and pathophysiology can be transferred into the School of Nursing degree program.

**Transfer Policy for Students Transferring from Other Schools of Nursing**

Applicants transferring from other schools of nursing will submit complete course syllabi and appropriate supporting documents to the School of Nursing Office of Student Services. These documents must be submitted at least six weeks prior to the application deadline. Syllabi and supporting documents will be reviewed by selected faculty and Office of Student Services staff for the purpose of evaluating course equivalency to University of Louisville courses. Course equivalency must be confirmed prior to admissions. When courses are approved, they become the course of record for that academic year. Nursing courses that have been approved for equivalency will remain equivalent for varying periods of time depending on the course. Nursing courses must be satisfactorily completed at an NLN or CCNE accredited nursing program in order to be considered as equivalent and transfer into the upper division curriculum.

A student who has previously failed two nursing courses at any school of nursing will not be eligible for admission to the Traditional BSN program. If a student has a previous nursing course failure, it will be considered the first failure by the University of Louisville Traditional BSN program. One additional failure of a nursing course at the University of Louisville will result in dismissal from the program.

**International Student Applicants**

Please refer to the university guidelines printed in this catalog regarding International Student Applicants.