

PENNSSTATE



COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor of Science, Major in Nursing for Registered Nurses Penn State Harrisburg



Penn State Harrisburg
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<http://harrisburg.psu.edu/behavioral-sciences-and-education/nursing/bachelor-science-nursing>

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Bachelor of Science, major in Nursing for registered nurses at Penn State Harrisburg, located in Middletown, PA. We are excited you are considering a return to the classroom and look forward to being part of the next phase of your academic and professional career.

Most students complete this program while working full-time. Many courses are offered in the evening, weekend, and in a hybrid format to best accommodate the working nurse. We strive to offer a flexible schedule that helps you progress through the program in a way that fits your busy life. You may be surprised at how easy it is to return to school. This is a great opportunity to develop a strong professional network, personal friendships, and opportunities for advancement.

To learn more about Penn State and our nursing programs, please visit:

- <http://nursing.psu.edu>
- <http://harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/bachelor-science-nursing>

We know that you have worked hard to reach this point and will continue to work hard as you enter our program and manage multiple responsibilities. Some of you will bring many years of nursing experience to the classroom and your expertise will be valued. For those of you who are just entering the profession, we will mentor and guide you through this exciting time in your professional career. We will also work with those of you interested in continuing on to graduate studies.

To begin your return to the classroom, please email the Penn State Harrisburg Office of Admissions at hbgadmit@psu.edu or call 717-948-6250. Once you are admitted, our nursing adviser or faculty advisers will discuss course selection, sequencing and a timetable to graduation. We are committed to providing you the quality education you deserve. Our team is committed to your success and we look forward to exceeding your expectations.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Husson, MSN, RN, CHSE
Program Coordinator and Instructor of Nursing

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Science, major in Nursing for registered nurses program is a 120-credit degree program. Our curriculum is fully accredited by ACEN and CCNE. Students entering this program must have completed an associate degree in nursing or a diploma program from a nursing school prior to application. Many of the required credits you may have completed from previous education. Only students with an RN license are permitted to take the three required clinical courses in the program. Our clinical program is unique and portions may be customized to your professional interests. We encourage you to talk with us about the clinical experience.

Experience has shown that progress through our program is smoothest when students have a plan at the beginning of their studies. This packet will answer many common questions, but it should not be used in place of consultation with your faculty adviser. All students must meet in person or by phone with their faculty adviser the first semester of entrance to the major, and the second to last semester prior to intended graduation.

This program is a great opportunity to develop a strong professional network, personal friendships, and opportunities for advancement. For this reason, we encourage you to take courses in the sequence outlined in this document, so that you are part of an informal cohort throughout the program.

Most courses are offered in a web-enhanced format, which includes in-class and online assignments, and do not require weekly attendance on campus. The program is geared to working nurses, but can also accommodate those not yet employed as a nurse. "Clinical" courses are self-scheduled activities and projects that fit your schedule. Most students take 6 credits per semester. When possible, we "team courses" so two courses may be completed on the same evening per week. If you are not working and wish to take a more aggressive schedule, please see your faculty adviser. Most of our courses are in the evening. Admission is year-round; you may start in fall, spring, or summer. Most people finish in about 2 years, part-time.

The Penn State baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 credits to graduate. There are general education requirements. ***Most students have credits to satisfy these requirements, so meet with your adviser to help you understand just how many requirements you have already met.***

Penn State requires that you earn 36 of your last 60 credits at Penn State to earn a baccalaureate degree. Upper division nursing courses are worth 28 credits. You must take an additional 8 credits at Penn State to meet this requirement. Most students need chemistry and statistics. Choosing CHEM 110/111 (4 credits) and STAT 200 (4 credits) will provide those 8 credits¹. Some students may need other courses.

¹ Courses you pick up at other colleges, credits earned through CLEP, or other formats do not count as Penn State earned credits and will not count towards the 36/60 requirement. However, they may be used toward the 120 credit minimum for graduation.

TRANSFER CREDIT REVIEW

Our admissions staff will review your transfer credits, discuss admission steps, and answer common questions. Although the pre-review is unofficial and subject to change, it may be useful as you explore different programs. At the pre-review phase, we are unable to provide review of international credits.

NURSING COURSES

Please visit nursing.psu.edu for complete course information, including prerequisites, number of credits, clinical hours required for select courses, a suggested academic plan, and the student handbook. Below is a summary of the required nursing courses.

NURS 390	Transition to Professional Nursing – Often the first course taken in the program.*
NURS 357	Introduction to Nursing Informatics*
NURS 200W	Understanding and Applying Nursing Research – Requires baccalaureate level statistics as a pre-requisite.*
NURS 251	Health Assessment*
NURS 465	Health Concepts for Adults with Complex Health Care Needs**
NURS 417	Family and Community Health Concepts**
NURS 475	Integrated Concepts in Nursing Practice**
Nursing Electives	Students choose six credits of nursing elective credits for the major. At least three credits must be at the 400 level.***

* These courses are generally taken prior to the clinical courses.

**The “Clinical Series” courses: NURS 465 (Adult Complex), NURS 417 (Community), NURS 475 (Senior Capstone)

These courses *require* students to be licensed (if you haven’t sat for your NCLEX, you will need to wait). NURS 475 is to be taken after all other nursing courses are completed (except the Nursing Electives).

***Taken any time during the program.

PREVIOUS NURSING COURSEWORK

Penn State may award up to 33 credits for prior nursing coursework. Please consult your faculty adviser, after admission, for more information.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND STEPS

Advanced Standing Applicants (Transfer Students)

A student is considered advanced standing if he/she never attended Penn State as an undergraduate degree student. For this major, applications are accepted year-round by Undergraduate Admissions at University Park. Please note: Do not apply to this major until you have graduated from an associate degree in nursing or diploma program at a nursing school. You do not have to pass boards prior to application.

- Complete the online application with fee at admissions.psu.edu.
- Submit all official high school transcripts, college and/or school of nursing transcripts and other items (such as AP or CLEP scores) directly to Undergraduate Admissions. If you have passed your state licensure exam, please send a copy of your RN license.

Re-Enrollment Applicants

You may submit a re-enrollment request form if you attended or graduated from Penn State as an undergraduate degree student. Re-enrollment requests are accepted year-round. Send the completed form and fee to the Penn State Harrisburg Registrar's office.

- Complete the form at: registrar.psu.edu/studentforms/Reenrollform.cfm. Submit the form and fee to the Penn State Harrisburg Registrar's Office. If you have passed your state licensure exam, please include a copy of your RN license.
- If you are taking prerequisite courses at another college, submit official transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions and an unofficial copy to Ronda Stump (rfg2@psu.edu).

NOTE: This program offers rolling admission. Eligible students may apply at any time.

CLINICAL COURSES

All three clinical courses (NURS 465, NURS 417, NURS 475) are “controlled” enrollment. You will not be able to register for them on eLion. To register, send an email to Ronda Stump (rfq2@psu.edu) requesting registration. She will check your audit, consult with your faculty adviser and add you to the class, if appropriate.

Students in this major will work with a preceptor on three required clinical courses. Clinical schedules are negotiated between the student and preceptor in consultation with the faculty. Many clinical locations are available. You will have the opportunity to identify clinical experience that meet your personal and professional goals.

REGISTRATION

Some hybrid courses meet on alternating weeks. The eLion system will not allow you to register for two courses that appear to meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, for example. Simply contact the Penn State Harrisburg Campus Registrar office at 717-948-6020 and state that you wish to register for two hybrid courses scheduled on the same night. If there is an issue, they will contact our office. All other general education and nursing courses may be added on eLion.

On the last page is a summary of our intended course sequence for the next two years. In consultation with your adviser, you design an academic plan. It's not a rule; it's a tool. It can be changed. If you need additional courses to meet major requirements, search the Schedule of Courses on the Penn State Harrisburg website in consultation with your adviser (schedule.psu.edu).

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Applicants are encouraged to access the Penn State tuition calendar at tuition.psu.edu/CostEstimate.aspx. You may call the Penn State Harrisburg Bursar's office at 717-948-6009 for more information. For financial aid or veteran benefit information, please visit harrisburg.psu.edu/financial-aid or call 717-948-6307. Many area employers help cover part of the cost of returning to school; please check with your Human Resources office.

Your audit is a very useful tool and will help you determine what courses you need to complete.

1. As soon as you have accepted your admission and paid your deposit, please email Ronda Stump (rfq2@psu.edu) with your name and student ID number.
2. She will access your audit and submit all general education or major petitions on your behalf.

3. You will receive an email in your Penn State webmail that reports how the petitions were processed.
4. Schedule to meet with your adviser to prepare your academic plan until graduation.
5. Print an updated audit and bring it with you to the first meeting with your academic adviser (elion.psu.edu - eLion>Students>Degree Audit).

At first, your audit will look very incomplete because much of the work that needs to be done has already been done. This is simply a process of completing the audit so that the major and university requirements are satisfied.

COURSEWORK AND GRADUATION

- Be sure to meet with your adviser **the semester plan to graduate!** The time to “fix” a problem on the audit is not the month before graduation.
- If you graduated from high school after May 2001 and *you did not* take any foreign language, you will need 3 credits of a foreign language, or you will need to challenge the requirement by exam (if you are bilingual).
- Advising is a formal process which is documented in your Penn State University record. Group advising, general statements about advising and on-the-fly advising in the halls and classrooms, is not formal advising unless it is documented in your Penn State University Advising Record
- Advising isn’t just for coursework. Your adviser or any faculty will talk with you about graduate school planning, career development, publication, and clinical ladder progress.
- Do not plan on taking general education courses outside of Penn State (after you have met the 36-credit requirement) *in your last semester*. Outside colleges may not have similar schedules. If your transferred grades do not post prior to the scheduled Penn State University semester end date, your graduation will be moved to the following semester. If you *must* take such a course in your last semester, consult your adviser.

WORLD CAMPUS

World Campus is a separate campus from Penn State Harrisburg. If you must move before graduation, or if your work schedule requires even more flexibility, you may transfer to World Campus. A Change of Campus form is required and you will be assigned to a new, World Campus adviser (worldcampus.psu.edu).

In some instances, you may need a World Campus course because of some scheduling issues.

- If you take one course at Penn State Harrisburg and one at World Campus, you do not need to change campuses.
- If you only take one or more courses at World Campus *for one semester*, and no courses at Penn State Harrisburg, you will need to request a Temporary Change of Campus. Your adviser will not change.

If you changed campuses, but wish to return to Penn State Harrisburg for a more in-person classroom experience, you simply complete the Change of Campus form.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please refer to the Penn State Harrisburg website at harrisburg.psu.edu for contact information for most college offices including registrar, bursar, financial aid, vehicle registration, bookstore and others. Answers to many common questions may be found on this site and you may wish to download the information packet for our program. As a NURN student, you are required to read the student handbook and academic plan from the College of Nursing website. Please visit nursing.psu.edu/undergraduate [Programhandbooks](#) to download the RN to BS Handbook.

**Penn State Harrisburg
Undergraduate Admissions**

Swatara Building
Harrisburg, PA 17057-4898
Phone: 717-948-6250
Email: hbgadmit@psu.edu

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Prospective students may go to admissions.psu.edu, complete an application, and pay the application fee. Submit all official high school, college, and/or school of nursing transcripts directly to:

Penn State University
Undergraduate Admissions
201 Shields Building
University, Park, PA 16802-1294
Questions: 814-865-5471

Additional Information

[Answers to most questions may be found at harrisburg.psu.edu](http://harrisburg.psu.edu)

Penn State University Bulletin Undergraduate Degree Programs
bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook

Penn State Harrisburg, Nursing
harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/bachelor-science-nursing

Penn State University Transfer Credit Tool
admissions.psu.edu/academics/credit/transfer

Penn State Harrisburg Admissions
harrisburg.psu.edu/admissions

Penn State Office of the University of Registrar
Registration Instructions at harrisburg.psu.edu/academics/registration-instructions
or call 717-948-6020

Tuition Schedule for Current Semester
tuition.psu.edu or call 717-948-6009

Undergraduate Non-Degree Enrollment Form
registrar.psu.edu/student_forms/nondegree.pdf

Re-Enrollment Form
[registrar.psu.edu/student_forms/Reenroll form.cfm](http://registrar.psu.edu/student_forms/Reenroll_form.cfm)

ANTICIPATED PENN STATE HARRISBURG NURSING SCHEDULE
Spring 2015 – Spring 2017

Summer 2015

- NURS 465 – Health Concepts for Adults with Complex Health Needs
- NURS 200W – Nursing Research
- STAT 200 – Elementary Statistics (Scheduled through Continuing Education)
- CHEM 110/111 – Chemical Principles I and Lab – (Scheduled through Continuing Education)

Fall 2015

- NURS 390 – Transition to Professional Nursing (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 357)
- NURS 357 – Introduction to Nursing Informatics (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 390)
- NURS 417 – Family and Community Health Concepts (Alternating Thursdays Evenings with NURS 407)
- NURS 407 – Drugs of Abuse (Alternating Thursday evenings with NURS 417)

Spring 2016

- NURS 251 – Health Assessment (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 200W)
- NURS 200W – Nursing Research (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 251)
- NURS 475 – (Alternating Thursday evenings with nursing elective)
- NURS 464 – (Alternating Thursday evenings with NURS 475)

Summer 2016

- NURS 465 – Health Concepts for Adults with Complex Health Care Needs (Schedule TBA)
- STAT 200 – Elementary Statistics - (Scheduled through Continuing Education)
- CHEM 110/111 – Chemical Principles I and Lab – (Scheduled through Continuing Education)

Fall 2016

- NURS 390 – Transition to Professional Nursing (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 357)
- NURS 357 – Introduction to Nursing Informatics (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 390)
- NURS 417 – Family and Community Health Concepts (Alternating Thursday evenings with nursing elective)
- NURS Elective TBA – (Alternating Thursday evenings with NURS 417)

Spring 2017

- NURS 251 – Health Assessment (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 200W)
- NURS 200W – Nursing Research (Alternating Tuesday evenings with NURS 251)
- NURS 475 – (Alternating Thursday evenings with nursing elective)
- NURS Elective TBA – (Alternating Thursday evenings with NURS 475)