



**PennState**  
College of Nursing

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Second Degree Program  
Applicant Information Packet**

<http://www.nursing.psu.edu/>

The information in this document is subject to change without notice.  
It is not intended to nor does it contain all regulations that relate to students.

*Fall 2015 (Revised 10/6/2015)*

## **CAREERS IN NURSING**

Nursing comprises the largest segment of the health care work force and is projected to be one of the fastest growing professions in the economy. A critical nursing shortage exists in the United States and around the world. With mandated health care legislation, the demand for high-quality nurses is expected to continue to grow over the next decade.

Graduates of this baccalaureate nursing program have a vast array of employment opportunities. Employment settings include trauma centers, community hospitals, home health agencies, rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, hospice agencies, schools, industrial and organizational settings, and the military. In addition, the B.S. degree is required to pursue an advanced degree in nursing, which prepares the nurse for roles such as nurse educator, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, nurse administrator and nurse researcher. The nursing professional encompasses opportunities for a lifelong and rewarding career.

A nursing career offers geographic mobility, financial security, schedule flexibility and personal satisfaction. Nurses say one of the profession's greatest joys is the personal satisfaction of helping others. Patient surveys show that nurses are often identified as the most memorable part of a patient's health care experience.

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow more than 25 percent from 2010 to 2020; faster than the average for all occupations. Employers are looking for experienced nurses or those coming from nursing programs that include extensive clinical experience, such as that at Penn State. Acquiring extensive clinical experience through nursing school is often considered one of the most valuable assets to prospective employers.

## **ABOUT OUR PROGRAM**

The Penn State Second Degree program is an intensive 16 month program for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree in another field. During our program, students will be enrolled in 14-17 credits per semester for a total of 60 credits. This rigorous program is offered in a cohort format (all cohorts start in fall semester) and requires extensive commitment.

## **ALL ABOUT APPLYING**

### Applicant Competiveness

Admission to this major is very competitive. The GPA has risen with each entering cohort. The first criterion for the program is completion of all prerequisites. Students who do not expect to have all prerequisites completed by the end of the spring semester will be encouraged to apply for the next cohort. Students with competitive GPAs and all prerequisite coursework completed (including graduation) by the end of fall semester are most competitive. Students with a GPA under 3.0 generally have not been considered. Typically, we have a large applicant pool so students should aim to be as competitive as possible. We generally accept no more than 35 students in a cohort.

### Applicant Review Timeline

The application (be it, completing the on-line application, filing for re-enrollment or current PSU students requesting to be manually added to the review) must be complete by November 30. The Entrance to Major Committee meets in mid-January. Applicants are notified in February regarding their status. Successful applicants with all prerequisite criteria met by the January Entrance to Major (ETM) review period will receive an 'immediate offer'. Applicants who have pending coursework or graduation and are still under consideration will receive a 'contingent offer'. Contingent offers become full offers once all prerequisite criteria are met.

### Application Deadline and Steps

**The standard application deadline is November 30.** Although applications and re-enrollments must be submitted by November 30, students may still complete coursework in fall and/or spring. Applicants completing courses at other institutions must submit official transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions at University Park and unofficial copies to the nursing office at the campus location you applied immediately upon course completion. Courses completed in fall should be submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December. Students completing coursework in spring must email a copy of their next semester schedule to the nursing office at the campus location you applied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December, preferably earlier. Incomplete applications or late submissions will not be considered.

### Previous PSU Students (Re-enrollment Applicants)

If you graduated from or attended Penn State as an undergraduate, degree-seeking student, you must submit a re-enrollment request form. We are currently accepting re-enrollment requests for the next fall cohort. The deadline is November 30.

- Complete the form found at:  
[http://www.registrar.psu.edu/student\\_forms/ReEnroll\\_form.cfm](http://www.registrar.psu.edu/student_forms/ReEnroll_form.cfm)
- Submit the form fee to the Registrar's Office.
- If you are taking prerequisite courses at another college, be sure that, *immediately upon course completion*, you submit official transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions and the nursing office at the campus location you applied.

### Penn State Spring Graduates

If you are a Penn State student who will graduate in spring, you must notify the nursing office at the campus you are interested in attending by November 30 to request to be manually added to the Entrance to Major (ETM) review list. You will need to file your Intent to Graduate on e-Lion as soon as you may do so, followed by submitting the re-enrollment form and fee (explained above) to the Penn State Registrar's Office. For any non-Penn State coursework not previously submitted to PSU, official transcripts need to be sent to Undergraduate Admissions at University Park and unofficial copies to the nursing office at the campus you are interested in attending.

### Transfer Students (Advanced Standing Applicants)

Penn State refers to applicants who are transferring from another school as 'Advanced Standing'. A student is considered advanced standing if he or she *never attended Penn State as an undergraduate degree seeking student*.

Between September 1 and November 30, transfer applicants must:

- Complete the online application and pay the processing fee at [admissions.psu.edu](http://admissions.psu.edu).
- Submit all official high school transcripts, college transcripts and other items (such as AP or CLEP scores) directly to Undergraduate Admissions. Items must be postmarked by November 30. Submit official transcripts for fall semester to Undergraduate Admissions immediately upon completion of the

semester. Students must scan and email an unofficial copy of all college transcripts to the nursing office you are interested in attending by November 30. Be sure all final grades for fall semester and spring semester schedules are emailed to the nursing office by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December. Contingent offered students should submit spring semester grades as soon as they are available in April or early May.

All official transcripts must be mailed to:

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

### Transfer Credit Review

An *unofficial* pre-review of transfer credits will be made available once all transcripts are received at Penn State University. **All pre-reviews are unofficial and subject to change.**

Applicants' transcripts will be evaluated to confirm that the prerequisite courses (***or their equivalents***), as determined by the College of Nursing and Penn State University) have been completed or are in progress.

For additional information on transfer courses, please visit <http://bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/> for Penn State course description or the University Transfer Credit Tool at [https://admissions.psu.edu/my\\_admissions/tas](https://admissions.psu.edu/my_admissions/tas). Transfer courses that are listed as general credit transfers may not meet the requirements of the major. *Be aware that Penn State University may require course catalog descriptions and/or syllabi for coursework at colleges other than Penn State University.* There is no time limit on credits, however, students with major course requirements that are more than five years old may wish to review or take a refresher course for desired program preparedness.

Undergraduate Admissions will calculate your cumulative GPA based on all undergraduate coursework from all college courses. Students are required to have all prerequisite coursework completed or in progress at the time of the admission review in January. All course work must be completed by the end of spring to be considered for the upcoming fall cohort.

### Early Offer Opportunity

Students with all prerequisite coursework completed, a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and graduation from an accredited baccalaureate program by the summer immediately preceding the fall application cycle may be considered for an early offer. The early offer cycle runs September 1-30 with notification in October. **A student must notify the nursing office at the location you are interested in attending if you wish to be considered for an early offer.**

### International Applicants

International transcripts can only be reviewed by Undergraduate Admissions at University Park, so pre-reviews are not possible. In order to have international transcripts reviewed, an application must be filed and official transcripts must be submitted to Undergraduate Admissions. Once your transcripts are reviewed by Undergraduate Admissions and transfer credits are added, you may notify the nursing office at the campus you are interested in attending that your transcripts are ready to be reviewed for the prerequisites required for the Second Degree in Nursing. This process takes significant time, so apply as soon as possible.

### CLINICAL SCHEDULES AND LOCATIONS

Clinical experiences are usually scheduled within 30-60 minutes of the location you are attending, although this may not always be the case. All clinical sites are subject to change. Classes and clinical are typically Monday through Friday, although weekends may also be required. Classes and nursing labs are held on the campus.

### INSURANCE, CPR AND CLEARANCES

Nursing students are required to carry liability insurance, be certified in adult and child CPR, and obtain criminal background checks and other clearances for enrollment. Students are also responsible for their own transportation to clinical settings and will need the use of a car. In addition, students must carry personal health insurance.

### TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Applicants are encouraged to access the Penn State tuition calculator at [tuition.psu.edu/CostEstimate.aspx](http://tuition.psu.edu/CostEstimate.aspx). For financial aid or veteran information, visit the campus website for contact information.

## OTHER COSTS

In addition to standard tuition and fees, students may expect to spend additional costs for textbooks, references, uniforms, the required NCLEX Review Course, and other costs.

**The information in this packet is subject to change without notice. The program is competitive and pre-review of academic credential is for informational purposes. Review of transcripts does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Completion of Prerequisite courses does not guarantee acceptance into the program. (2015)**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Penn State Altoona**

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**Penn State Harrisburg**

For additional information and pre-reviews of non-PSU prospective applicants, interested students are encouraged to begin the process by contacting the Penn State Harrisburg Admissions Office at 717-948-6250 or [hbgadmit@psu.edu](mailto:hbgadmit@psu.edu).

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