

PRE-HEALTH MAJOR IN NURSING

Students interested in the highly competitive nursing program must complete the pre-health major in nursing requirements prior to application. A total minimum of 28 credits is required for application to the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Students must also present SAT, ACT or GRE test scores at the time of application to the nursing program. A minimum cumulative GPA is also required. Applicants whose native language is not exclusively English must submit TOEFL or IELTS test scores. For more information about these requirements, visit the School of Nursing's website (<http://nursing.vcu.edu>).

Because admission to the B.S. in Nursing program is highly competitive, it is imperative that all pre-health students who intend to pursue a major in nursing work in tandem with their UAA pre-health major academic adviser to consider parallel majors that satisfy similar career outcomes. Completion of the pre-health major in nursing does not guarantee admission to the traditional program for the B.S. in Nursing nor does it result in a college degree.

Requirements for the pre-health major in nursing

Students applying to the traditional B.S. in Nursing degree program must complete biological concepts with laboratory, human anatomy (lab included) with a minimum grade of B, principles of nutrition and an approved second laboratory science course.¹ The non-science prerequisites for the pre-health major in nursing are: UNIV 111 and UNIV 112, introduction to psychology and general sociology. Although math is not required for admission to the School of Nursing, students admitted into the nursing program complete a statistics class. Therefore, we recommend that students who place into college algebra complete a math class during the first year.

While not a requirement of the pre-health major in nursing, students who have space in their schedules to accommodate additional classes are encouraged to begin working on the collateral requirements of the baccalaureate degree. These courses include: BIOL 209 and BIOZ 209, both with minimum grades of B; PHIL 201; PHIS 206 and PHIZ 206, both with minimum grades of B; PSYC 304; STAT 210; and UNIV 200.

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If high school chemistry (with laboratory) with a minimum grade of C has **not** been completed, one semester of general chemistry with laboratory (CHEM 101 and CHEZ 101) must be taken. In order to be eligible for CHEM 101, students must meet the placement requirements. If high school chemistry with a minimum grade of C has been completed, choose from the following **approved second laboratory sciences**: BIOL 103; BIOL 151 and BIOZ 151; BIOL 152 and BIOZ 152; CHEM 101 and CHEZ 101; PHYS 101 and PHYZ 101; PHYS 103 and PHYZ 103. Note that these courses may have pre- or corequisites.

Changing to the pre-health major in nursing from another major

Current VCU students who wish to change their major to the pre-health major in nursing must meet the following criteria to be considered for the major:

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- No more than 75 credits completed

Students who do not meet these requirements may see a pre-health adviser, but they will be referred for programming and not assigned to an adviser.

Progression policy

Students interested in pursuing the B.S. in Nursing are admitted initially into the pre-health major in nursing, which is not a degree-granting major. In order to remain in the pre-nursing program, students must meet the following criteria.

- Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 VCU cumulative GPA.
 - If a student's VCU cumulative GPA drops below 3.0, they will be placed on pre-health probation and allowed one semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 – provided it is mathematically possible to do so. If it is not mathematically possible to do so, or if the student fails to raise their minimum cumulative GPA to 3.0 during their probationary semester, they will be removed from the pre-nursing major and transitioned into their secondary major. If no secondary major exits, students will be moved into the Discovery program (undeclared major) where they will receive assistance with selecting another major.
- Pre-health probation students: Students must meet with their pre-health adviser prior to the add/drop deadline of the pursuant semester in order to adjust their class schedule and to create an **action plan**.
- By the time a student has attempted¹ 45 credits, if they have not successfully matriculated into the traditional B.S. in Nursing program, they must declare a secondary major related to their parallel plan.
- By the time a student has attempted 60 credits, they must have completed BIOL 205 (or its equivalent) with a minimum grade of B.
- If a student exceeds 75 attempted¹ credits and has not successfully matriculated into the traditional B.S. in Nursing program, they will be removed from the pre-nursing major and their secondary major will become their primary major.

Details of requirements for admission to the traditional nursing program can be found on the program admission tab of the traditional program concentration page (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/nursing/nursing-bs-traditional-program/#programadmissionrequirements>) of this Bulletin.

Transfer students who are admitted to the pre-health major in nursing must apply to the traditional program option of the B.S. in Nursing following the minimum number of semesters needed to complete the prerequisite courses required for admission. Transfer students must adhere to the same guidelines outlined above (re: declaring secondary majors, developing action plans, etc.). Transfer students who have exceptionally high credits are strongly encouraged to consider applying to the **accelerated program**, which is a post-baccalaureate B.S. degree option.

Students may appeal the removal from the pre-health major in nursing via the director of pre-health advising in University Academic Advising. Students must initiate the appeal with their assigned academic adviser in UAA. The director may, at his or her discretion, extend the time period needed to meet the requirements, generally by only one semester. A student who wishes to appeal must submit his or her appeal at least one

week prior to the start of the next semester in which they register for classes.

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Attempted hours include credit hours from courses in which a W, an F or any other grade has been assigned. This is reported in the transcript as "overall attempted hours."

Prerequisites for the traditional nursing program

Course	Title	Hours
VCU courses		
BIOL 101 & BIOZ 101	Biological Concepts and Biological Concepts Laboratory	4
BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 217	Principles of Nutrition	3
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	4
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Sociology	3
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	Focused Inquiry I	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II	3
Approved second laboratory science		4
Total Hours		28

Sample curriculum outline

Freshman year

Fall semester	Hours
BIOL 101 & BIOZ 101	Biological Concepts and Biological Concepts Laboratory 4
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology 4
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	Focused Inquiry I 3
Approved second laboratory science (must meet placement requirements) 4	
Mathematics course ¹	
Term Hours: 15	

Spring semester

BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 217	Principles of Nutrition	3

SOCY 101	Introduction to Sociology	3
Play course video for Introduction to Sociology		
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
Term Hours:		13
Total Hours:		28

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Students placing into MATH 141 should take this course prior to the fall semester they begin the School of Nursing curriculum

Total minimum requirement (for admission to traditional nursing program) 28 credits