



Prehealth Programs: Nursing

CU-BOULDER ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, PREPROFESSIONAL OFFICE
<http://advising.colorado.edu> (click on prehealth, at left)

IS THIS CAREER FOR YOU?

Professional nurses provide a broad range of direct and indirect services to individuals, families, and communities. They work in hospitals, clinics, schools, industry, and private and community health care systems. Nurses may also work in specialty areas within hospitals or clinics such as emergency and critical care, pediatrics, obstetrics, oncology, surgery, or geriatrics, just to name a few.

Salaries for nurses have escalated and should continue to remain strong in the future due to a national nursing shortage. A career in nursing also offers flexibility in scheduling of work hours and in geographic relocation. There are many paths to becoming a registered nurse. To illustrate these possibilities, please see the diagram on the last page of this flyer.”

For more information keep in touch with the prehealth advisor in Old Main 1B-90, (303) 735-3000.

NURSING DEGREES AVAILABLE FROM UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (UCHSC)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Baccalaureate nursing education provides entry into the nursing profession with the Bachelor of Science degree. After passing the RN licensure examination, graduates are prepared as a professional nurse generalist for a career in a variety of practice settings. In addition to the Traditional 2-year program of study, an Accelerated BS program was initiated in summer 2004 to offer options for individuals with degrees in non-nursing majors.

Two Pathways to the BSN at UCHSC

You may apply to a Traditional (2 year) BSN program after completing 59 credit hours, including 16 prerequisite courses at CU-Boulder or another accredited college, university or community college. See below for details.

Alternatively, you may complete a baccalaureate degree in any area and apply to the Accelerated BSN program. In addition to the degree, you must complete 4 prerequisite courses in microbiology, anatomy, physiology and statistics. See below for details. Your degree must be complete and noted on your transcript by December 31 of the year that you apply. The Accelerated BSN program is a 17-19 month program.

You may begin the nursing curriculum at the School of Nursing in either June or January and the same application deadlines apply for both. You may select a preferred start date, but the SON may place you in a different class if needed. For details, see website at www.uchsc.edu/SON.

Should I get a bachelor's degree first?

As seen above, it is not necessary to earn a bachelor's degree before entering the BSN program at UCHSC. Many students do choose this option because it provides a well-rounded background before you focus your professional education on nursing. If you decide to complete a BA or BS degree at CU-Boulder before beginning a nursing program, be sure to choose a major that interests you and in which you will excel. Even if you do not plan to complete a bachelor's degree before applying to nursing school, we recommend that you be considering a major in the event that your plans change or if you are not accepted into a nursing program on your first application.

PREREQUISITE COURSES UCHSC BSN PROGRAM

Although the School of Nursing does not specifically require General Biology and General Chemistry, two semesters of each of these courses are necessary prerequisites for the required upper-division biology courses at CU-Boulder. Course numbers refer to CU-Boulder courses only.

Pathway I: (to apply to UCHSC School of Nursing, BEFORE completing a bachelor's degree)

- **General Chemistry** (2 sems.): CHEM 1111 and CHEM 1131 or CHEM 1071
- **General Biology** (2 sems. w/ labs): EBIO 1210 and 1230; EBIO 1220 and 1240 (these are CU-Boulder prerequisites for the following and meet the BSN prerequisite for 2 science courses)
- **Human Anatomy:** IPHY 3410 (lecture) and 3415 (lab)
- **Human Physiology:** IPHY 3430
- **Microbiology:** EBIO 3400
- **General Psychology:** PSYC 1001
- **Developmental Psychology:** PSYC 4684
- **Sociology:** SOCY 1001
- **Anthropology or Ethnic Studies:** ANTH 1040 or course in multicultural or women's studies
- **Statistics:** PSYC 3101, or SOCY 2061, or MATH 2510, or IPHY 2800
- **Nutrition:** IPHY 3420
- **English Composition:** WRTG 1150 or higher, or ARSC 1080
- **Algebra:** MATH 1011, or MATH 1001
- **Philosophy:** Any course in the department will apply
- **Creative Art:** A non-performance course in one of the following areas: art, music, dance, fine arts, theater, photography, film, literature. A third-level or above language course with a literature component will apply.
- **Electives:** One course in either political science, history, or macroeconomics

At least 44 semester hours of credit (66 quarter hours) of the total 59 credits must

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be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to admission. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of the spring semester prior to matriculation. Only one of anatomy, physiology, or microbiology may be outstanding by the end of fall term prior to admission. Each prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of C or higher. A C- grade will not be accepted. A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required in all college coursework.

Pathway II: (to apply to UCHSC School of Nursing with a non-nursing BA/BS degree completed by December 31 of the year of application)

- **Human Anatomy:** IPHY 3410 (lecture) and 3415 (lab). Note: EBIO 1210 and 1220 are prerequisites for this course.
- **Human Physiology:** IPHY 3430. Note: EBIO 1210, 1220, CHEM 1111 & 1131, or 1071 are prerequisites for this course.
- **Microbiology:** EBIO 3400. Note: EBIO 1210, 1220, 1230, and 1240, or EBIO 2050 and 2060 are prerequisites for this course.
- **Statistics:** PSYC 3101, or SOCY 2061, or MATH 2510, or IPHY 2800.

The BSN application priority deadline (for applicants who have completed all of their prerequisite courses) is August 31, and the final deadline is November 15 for the following June and January classes. Please remember that those with a degree must have completed it in time for the degree to appear on their transcript by December 31 of the fall they are applying.

You may receive applications for the CU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing by contacting:
www.uchsc.edu/nursing/education.

GRADUATE STUDY AT UCHSC

Master's Degree/Nurse Practitioner Certification (MSN/ANP)

The Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) program prepares the nurse for practice as a clinical nurse specialist, a nurse practitioner, a nurse-anesthetist or a certified nurse-midwife. The MSN degree also prepares you for doctoral study in nursing. Applicants to the MSN program at UCHSC must have a BSN and must be a licensed RN. Some programs outside of Colorado offer the MSN/NP curriculum to those without a BS in nursing. See the Prehealth Advisor for more information.

Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The DNP degree appeals to nurses with a BS or MS degree in Nursing or those with non-nursing degrees who are interested in a practice-focused doctorate. By 2015 all masters programs will be phased out and the DNP will be required for an advanced practice specialty, i.e. nurse practitioner certification. DNP graduates will build on nursing specialty practice and will be prepared as leaders who will design models of health care delivery, evaluate clinical outcomes, identify and manage health care needs of populations, and use technology and information to transform health care systems. The new DNP program will include all of the nursing specialties offered at our school. Nurses with this degree will help alleviate the shortage of nursing faculty in the U.S. Generally, the program will require 4-5 years to complete.

PhD in Nursing

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a program that focuses on nursing theory development and nursing research. The program usually takes three to seven years to complete. Admission to the PhD program follows successful completion of the BS, MS degree in nursing or ND degree.

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OTHER NURSING SCHOOLS

There are a total of nine nursing schools in Colorado which offer the BSN degree. Most offer both the traditional and accelerated programs. In addition, there are many community-college based Associates Degree nursing programs which offer a path to RN certification. A detailed description of each program, degrees offered, and the prerequisites you will need can be found at: www.coloradonursingcenter.org/nursingcareers, or in the office of the Prehealth Advisor.

Regis University

Regis University in northwest Denver offers both a traditional and a one-year accelerated BSN program. The prerequisites include those already mentioned under Pathway II plus one course in nutrition, one course in developmental psychology, 2 courses in religious studies, one course in sociology, one course in philosophy and one upper-division course in bioethics. Please check website for details: www.regis.edu.

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Volunteering or working in a health-related position is important. First, it will help you evaluate your suitability for the nursing profession and reaffirm your commitment; or it may lead you to reflect on your original career goal. Second, as you learn more about the profession, you will also learn about the empathy, commitment, and endurance required of a health-care professional. Third, such efforts demonstrate to admissions committees your sincerity in wanting to help people, as well as your ability to follow through on your responsibilities.

Admissions Committees place a great deal of weight on an applicant's personal essay about their motivations to pursue a career in nursing. Experiences, volunteer or paid, in healthcare settings provide rich material for this essay. Contact the Prehealth advisor for suggestions about volunteering.

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PREHEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is an Honor's prehealth society for those interested in health careers. Contact with other students with similar interests as yours can be very gratifying. You can e-mail AED at aed@ucsu.colorado.edu for more information.

The Student Association for Pre-health Professionals (SAPP) represents a community of students at CU-Boulder who are interested in pursuing health-related careers. Its goal is to provide an organization where students interested in all areas of medicine can come together and learn more about the many professions, receive academic or personal guidance, and get detailed advice on applying to graduate schools. Membership is open to all CU students. You can e-mail SAPP at prh1th@colorado.edu or visit their web site at: <http://www.colorado.edu/student-groups/prehealth>.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

You should take the time during your undergraduate career to nurture meaningful relationships with people who you respect, whether they be professors or professionals you meet during extracurricular work. If a professor's research excites you, try to become part of his or her team, or arrange to do independent study or research under his or her direction. If you are drawn to an individual, follow up on maintaining contact. Some nursing programs (such as the UCHSC ND) require letters of recommendation, and heart-felt letters expressing enthusiastic support are much more helpful than the "boiler-plate" variety that emerge when professors are asked to submit dozens of letters for students whom they barely know.

In addition, being part of a network of people working in the field that is your passion can pay off in intangible ways down the road.

INTERVIEWS

The UCHSC Doctoral programs require an interview, but most BSN programs do not. You may want to take advantage of the mock interviews that are offered by the Preprofessional Advising office. Call 303-735-3000 for more information.

Vital Statistics (from the CU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, B.S.N. Program - 2006)

Ratio of applications to acceptances: 4:1

Total applications: 945

Percentage of applicants with degrees: 45%

Median age of students: 29

Number of students in BSN program: 239

Degree conferred: BS in Nursing

Licensure requirements: NCLEX exams

In-state yearly tuition: \$325/credit hour

Starting income with BSN: \$22 - \$25/hr.

All information in this publication is subject to change. Please check with the prehealth advisor, or with the appropriate school for up-to-date information.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

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