

Pacific Lutheran University School of Nursing
BSN Program Frequently Asked Questions

For Basic BSN and LPN to BSN Applicants

Programs of Study

Q. What nursing programs does Pacific Lutheran University offer?

- A.** The PLU School of Nursing offers several programs of study leading to the bachelor of science in nursing degree, the master of science in nursing degree, or the doctor of nursing practice degree, including:

Basic Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (BSN): Four-year undergraduate degree for students who do not hold a prior nursing degree or licensure. Takes three (3) academic years or 6 semesters to complete.

LPN to BSN Program: For students who have completed an accredited licensed practical nurse program. Takes two and one-half (2½) academic years or 5 semesters to complete.

RN-B to MSN Program: For students with a non-nursing bachelor's degree and current RN licensure. Has the same requirements as the ELM program above, with an additional course requirement. Takes 5-6 semesters to complete.

Entry-Level Master of Science in Nursing Program: Accelerated MSN program for students who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree but no nursing degree or experience. Takes 27 months to complete.

Master of Science in Nursing Care and Outcomes Manager (MSN) Program: Graduate nursing program for students who hold a bachelor's degree and current RN licensure. Takes two academic years or 4-5 semesters to complete.

MSN/MBA Dual Degree Program: designed to prepare practicing BSN-prepared nurses for high-level careers in management and administration. Leads to a master's degree in nursing and business administration in three years.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program: family nurse practitioner graduate nursing program for students with a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing. Two major routes to the DNP – BSN to DNP (3-4 years) and Post-master's to DNP (2 years).

The information on this FAQ pertains specifically to the *undergraduate* Basic BSN and LPN to BSN programs only. For information on RN-B to MSN, Entry-Level MSN, MSN Care and Outcomes Manager and DNP programs, please review our [website](#), then contact us with any further questions: nurs@plu.edu.

Q. How many students do you admit each year? What are the entrance dates?

- A.** Each year, about 40 students are admitted in the fall semester (which begins in September), and about 40 more in the spring semester (which begins in February), or about 80 new students per year. There is only one admission cycle per year; all BSN applications are considered as a group and are placed in either the fall or spring semester.

Q. What is the student schedule like? Can I work while I am studying?

- A.** During the first 5 semesters, a full-time BSN student normally attends on-campus classes during the day three days per week, in addition to either on-campus labs or off-campus clinicals two days per week. Clinical experiences are typically during day or evening shifts. Clinical sites are located within 50 miles of the PLU campus.

Nursing students are advised not to work during their course of study in the nursing program. Time management is crucial throughout the program; students who choose to work while attending school full-time often experience difficulty coordinating their educational, work, and personal commitments.

BSN Admission Criteria

Q. How do I apply to the PLU School of Nursing?

- A.** For the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (Basic BSN, LPN to BSN):
- Apply for admission to the PLU Office of Admission. Transfer students are strongly encouraged to submit the PLU application well in advance of the School of Nursing application deadline (at least 1-2 months prior).
 - Submit the School of Nursing application packet. Applications are available [online](#) or from the [School of Nursing](#).
 - **February 1st** is the priority deadline for admission to the School of Nursing programs each year. Those who complete the nursing application by the priority deadline are normally notified of their admissions status not later than the end of June. Applications received and/or completed after the priority deadline are considered on a space-available basis.

Q. Is it possible to apply while I'm still in high school?

- A.** We offer simultaneous application to PLU and the School of Nursing for highly qualified high school seniors. They may be considered for conditional admission to the nursing major based on their application to the university, which is reviewed by both the university and nursing admission committees; contact the Office of Admission for details, criteria, and deadlines (253.535.7151, plu.edu/admission/).

Q. What factors are considered when the School of Nursing makes BSN admissions decisions?

- A.** Please refer to the [PLU Catalog](#) for complete admission and progression policies. The admissions criteria include:
- Academic background and minimum GPA requirements, including:
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale in all college coursework,
 - Grades of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale ('C') in **each** prerequisite course, and
 - Combined GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale in the nursing prerequisite courses.
 - No more than one repeat of any prerequisite or co-requisite course due to a grade below the minimum requirements. (Applicants who have failed, repeated, or withdrawn from courses are considered less competitive.)
 - School of Nursing essay responses
 - Two letters of recommendation (academic and/or professional references)
 - Proficiency in the English language (policy is available [online](#) and in the application packet)

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- Questions relative to RN licensure; civil, administrative, and criminal history clearance; etc.

Q. How competitive is admission? What kinds of students are admitted?

A. Admission to the PLU School of Nursing is highly competitive. Meeting the minimum criteria for consideration of admission neither implies nor guarantees admission to the program. In recent years, the School of Nursing has received about 600 applications annually for about 80 openings.

Admitted students usually meet or exceed all the minimum criteria, and submit strong references and essay responses in addition to having a competitive academic record. The average cumulative GPA and prerequisite GPA of those accepted BSN programs is above 3.6 on a 4.0 scale. **Science courses must include onsite labs and must be completed within the last 6 years at a 4-year or community college.**

Prerequisite and Co-Requisite Requirements

Q. What are the specific prerequisite and co-requisite courses I must complete?

A. The prerequisite and co-requisite requirements vary depending on whether an applicant is applying to the Basic BSN or the LPN to BSN program. 'Prerequisite' courses must be completed prior to beginning the nursing program, while 'co-requisite' courses may be completed concurrently with some nursing courses.

Basic Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Prerequisite Courses:

Human Anatomy & Physiology I
Human Anatomy & Physiology II
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry

Co-Requisite Courses:

Introduction to Microbiology
Development Across the Lifespan
Introduction to Statistics

LPN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Prerequisite Courses:

Human Anatomy & Physiology I
Human Anatomy & Physiology II
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction Organic and Biochemistry
Introduction to Microbiology
Development Across the Lifespan

Co-Requisite Course:

Introduction to Statistics

Q. How can I find out if the courses I have taken (or plan to take) fulfill the prerequisite/co-requisite requirements?

A. If you took coursework at a 4-year or 2-year college or university in Washington, [download](#) or request the School of Nursing Comparable Course guide (see Information for transfer students, below).

Q. I will not complete the prerequisites by the application deadline; will my application still be considered?

A. Applicants with prerequisites in progress will be considered, and may be offered provisional acceptance into the program. This means they must have a plan to complete all prerequisites before they begin nursing classes at PLU. Applicants who have completed all or the majority of the prerequisite courses by the priority deadline are considered more competitive.

Tuition and Program Costs

Q. How much does the program cost?

A. For current PLU tuition and fees, please see the [PLU Catalog](#) or contact the PLU Office of Admission (253.535.7151 or admission@plu.edu). In addition to standard PLU tuition, textbooks, and course-related fees, standard nursing program costs include uniforms, liability insurance, immunizations, certifications, and transportation to and from clinical sites.

Q. Is financial aid available to nursing students?

A. For information on loans and PLU scholarships, contact the Office of Admission (253.535.7151 or admission@plu.edu). A variety of endowed and non-endowed scholarships exist specifically for continuing nursing students. In addition, non-PLU nursing financial aid resources are posted at the School and [online](#).

Information for Transfer Students

Students transferring from another college or university should work with us. [Attend an information session!](#) Transfer students must apply separately to PLU Admissions and to the School of Nursing, and are strongly encouraged to **apply to PLU well in advance of the priority deadline** for the BSN application (one to two months prior). Transfer applicants can also review the following guides to identify courses that transfer to PLU for both nursing and general requirements:

[Nursing Comparable Course Guide](#) (School of Nursing):

Lists courses at all Washington State colleges/universities that meet nursing pre- and co-requisite course requirements.

[Transfer Equivalency Guides](#) (PLU Registrar):

Lists all courses offered at Washington State community colleges, and shows which are equivalent to specific PLU courses.

Information for Current PLU Students

Students who enter PLU with an interest in nursing are assigned a pre-nursing advisor. Work closely with your current advisor to ensure you are taking the appropriate pre-nursing coursework. Be sure to attend appropriate pre-nursing student informational meetings and orientations as well.