

Pacific Lutheran University School of Nursing  
**BSN Program Frequently Asked Questions**  
For Traditional BSN and LPN- 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:

Traditional 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 2 ½ academic years or 5 semesters to complete.

RN-B to MSN Program: This program is on hiatus.

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* Traditional 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](mailto:nurs@plu.edu).

**Q. How many students are admitted each year? What are the entrance dates?**

- A.** Each year, 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 admitted students 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 clinical rotations two days per week. Clinical experiences are typically during day or evening shifts. Most clinical sites are located in the south Puget Sound area within 30 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 BSN program?**

- A.** 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 at [www.plu.edu/nursing](http://www.plu.edu/nursing)
  - **February 1<sup>st</sup>** is the priority deadline for admission to the School of Nursing programs each year and final deadline is **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Those who complete the nursing application by the priority deadline are normally notified of their admissions status no later than the end of June. Applications received and/or completed after the priority deadline are considered on a space-available basis.

**Q. Is there a fee to apply? What forms of payment are accepted? Is it possible to waive the application fee?**

- A.** There is a \$65 application fee. Please include a Cashier's check or money order with your completed application, payable to the "PLU School of Nursing". **Cash or personal checks are not accepted.** There is no way to waive this application fee, and the application is not considered complete without payment.

**R. Is it possible to apply while I'm still in high school? What is Conditional Admission?**

- A.** High School seniors should apply to PLU as a first-year student and indicate "Nursing" as the major of interest by January 15th. Students should include an essay about their passion and goals in nursing. Select students may be offered conditional admission into the program without the need to apply separately to the School of Nursing. Admission to the nursing major would be guaranteed upon successful completion of coursework and fulfillment of other conditions and GPA requirements. Conditional Admission is competitive. See [plu.edu/admission-first-year/apply](http://plu.edu/admission-first-year/apply) or ask your PLU admission counselor for details.

**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. Admission criteria includes:
- Academic background and minimum GPA requirements, including:
    - Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in all college coursework,
    - Grades of 2.5 (B-) or higher in **each** prerequisite course, and
    - Combined GPA of 3.0 or higher in the nursing prerequisite courses.
    - No more than one repeat of any single 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 (one recommendation must come from a college instructor)
- Proficiency in the English language (policy is available online and in the application packet)
- 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 250-350 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.

## 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 Traditional 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.

**Traditional 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, see our 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, 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 on our website.

## Information for Transfer Students

Transfer students must apply separately to PLU 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** ([www.plu.edu/nursing](http://www.plu.edu/nursing), click on "Application" and the guide is under "Quick Links" on the left side of the page): Lists courses at all Washington State colleges/universities that meet nursing pre- and co-requisite course requirements.

**Transfer Equivalency Guides** ([www.plu.edu/registrar](http://www.plu.edu/registrar), click on "Equivalency Guides" at the top of the page): 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 an Academic 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 as well.