



# UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDEBOOK

## Is nursing right for you?

Nursing is a very distinct line of work that requires a special interest in the compassionate care of others. Please use the list of questions below to help you reflect on why you are interested in a career in nursing.

- Do you consider yourself to be **compassionate**?
- Are you a good **communicator**?
- Are you interested in **lifelong learning**?
- Do you **collaborate** well with others?
- Are you **organized and detail oriented**?
- Do you have a **passion for caring for others**?
- Are you comfortable **advocating** for others?
- Are you interest in **Holistic care**?
- Do you consider yourself a **Leader**?
- Are you **flexible** and able to **adapt quickly** to change?
- Do you have the ability to keep up with ever changing **technology**?
- Do you have the ability to **think quickly in stressful situations**?

Additional information can be found here:

<http://www.discovernursing.com/why-be-a-nurse>



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## What is Nursing?

According to the American Nurses Association: “Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and Populations (American Nurses Association, 2013).”



# Applying to the Program

## Approved vs Intended Nursing Major

**Approved majors** are students who have applied and been accepted to the nursing program (upper division)

**Intended Majors** are those who are working on the nursing prerequisite courses and preparing to apply to the nursing program (upper division). Some things to know about applying to the traditional nursing program:

- A new class of nursing students starts every fall. We only admit once per year.
  - ◆ Students who are ready to apply for a fall start will be required to submit a completed application by between January 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>; we do not accept late applications. Decisions will be e-mailed to students by late March; applicants can be Admitted, Denied or Waitlisted for the program.
- Qualified applications must have:
  - ◆ At least 11 of the 12 prerequisites complete or in progress (enrolled in remaining courses) during the spring in which the application is submitted. Only one course can be scheduled for summer, however, we recommend that you plan to complete all prerequisites by the conclusion of the spring semester if possible.
  - ◆ At least a 3.0 undergraduate cumulative GPA (including all transfer credit) and a 3.0 nursing prerequisite GPA are required to be considered for admission by faculty.

*\*Please utilize the Application Check list on page 5 to determine whether you are ready to apply this year.*

## Qualities of a Competitive Application

- ◆ Candidate should meet all minimum requirements (please see Application Check-List on page 5 for details).
- ◆ Candidates should be able to articulate their experience related to nursing, their understanding of the role of a nurse, and why they wish to enter into the field of nursing through personal experiences.
- ◆ Candidate should take the essay portion of the application seriously even if they have a high grade point average. The essay questions make up more than half of your review and are your only opportunity to demonstrate to the faculty that you have real exposure to nursing through work/life/volunteer experiences. There are no interviews, so the application essay responses are your opportunity to highlight all your strengths. We suggest students write out their responses in a word document and make sure that they are free of spelling or grammatical errors prior to submission.
- ◆ Being able to discuss any leadership, research or service related experiences in your essays will also demonstrate you're fit for the program.

## Myths vs Facts

**Myth:** I cannot reapply if I already applied.

**Fact:** Qualified students can apply year after year if they wish. However, we suggest that students do not submit the same application year after year. They can contact the School of Nursing to see how they may improve their application for next year. For clarification on admission requirements please see the Application Check-List on page 5.

**Myth:** Students with GPA's below 3.65 are not admitted.

**Fact:** 3.65 was the average cumulative GPA of the admitted student for fall 2013. It is possible to be admitted to the School of Nursing with a GPA below the average. Likewise, applicants with a GPA higher than 3.65 can be denied admission.

**Myth:** I won't be admitted if I don't have any nursing related experience.

**Fact:** It's true that having some related experience is highly recommended and may help you better articulate why you wish to go into nursing and enhance your knowledge of the profession, but it's not a requirement for admission. Our faculty also look favorably at leadership and research experiences.



## Why is UB Nursing so competitive?

◆ We generally receive about 300 traditional applicants each year for only 80 spots; 200 Accelerated applications for 56 spots.

◆ The average cumulative GPA of the admitted traditional applicant was a 3.65 in 2013; 3.52 for the accelerated program.

◆ The average prerequisite GPA of the admitted traditional applicant was a 3.75 in 2013; 3.7 for the accelerated program.

◆ Small school atmosphere within a large research university.

◆ Our clinical experiences cover the life span in various settings in a 1:8 faculty to student ratio.

◆ One on one mentoring relationships with faculty.

◆ NCLEX preparation is integrated into every course. As a result, we have a first time pass rate above 90% consistently.

◆ Our program is consistently ranked in the top 20% of undergraduate and graduate Schools of Nursing by US News & World Report

◆ We are the top ranked graduate school of nursing in the State University of New York (SUNY) system

◆ Our Faculty are experts in their field

## Leadership/Volunteer/Research Experiences

The School of Nursing does not arrange experiences for intended nursing students. Students are expected to seek out these opportunities on their own. Below are some suggestions for getting started:

- ◆ **Join the Nursing Students Organization (NSO) and/or the Multicultural Nursing Student Association (MNSA).** Both organizations are student run and engage in social and volunteer experiences. This is a great way to meet other intended and current nursing students. Your peers may be able to give you some tips on volunteer or shadowing experiences.
- ◆ **Join a club/organization** or engage in other leadership opportunities on campus. The School of Nursing looks favorably on students who are involved in leadership roles both on and off campus as this is a skill that is certainly transferable to the nursing profession. Get involved when you can!
- ◆ **Volunteer or shadow** at a hospital or nursing home. There may be opportunities in local facilities around western New York for interested students. Those of you who spend the winter and summer months outside of the area may look for opportunities elsewhere. Here are some suggested places in Western New York to start (\*please note: this is not a complete list):
  - ⇒ Buffalo's Veteran's Medical Center: <http://www.buffalo.va.gov/>
  - ⇒ Kaleida Health (various local hospitals): <http://www.kaleidahealth.org/>
  - ⇒ Catholic Health (various local facilities): <http://www.chsbuffalo.org>
  - ⇒ Search local nursing homes: <http://nursinghomes.nyhealth.gov/searches/county/15>
  - ⇒ Check other resources on the pre-health site: <http://prehealth.buffalo.edu/>
- ◆ **Become a Teaching Assistant (TA)** in some of the prerequisite courses. Students who received A's in Anatomy or Human Growth and Development may be eligible to apply for TA positions offered the following semester. Students interested in this opportunity can speak directly to their instructor(s) and should watch for e-mail messages announcing open applications.
- ◆ **Participation in research opportunities** can be rewarding and make a positive impact on your application. UB is a premiere, research-intensive university with many opportunities for students to become involved in cutting edge projects. Check out the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Actives for more information:  
<http://curca.buffalo.edu/students/research-opps.php>



# The Importance of Having a Back-up Plan

A very common question is “what will I do if I don’t get in?” Admission to the UB School of Nursing is quite competitive, therefore, it is wise to consider your options and develop a back-up plan. Below are some suggestions to help you get started.

- ◆ **Apply to Other Nursing Programs:** Qualified candidates may want to increase their odds of being accepted to a nursing program and may choose to apply to other institutions. Please keep in mind that other nursing programs may require a different set of prerequisites and may accept applications at different times than UB. It is best to do your homework and speak with advisors at the other institutions you are considering for appropriate information. To search for other nursing programs visit: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/member-schools>
- ◆ **Reapply Next Year:** Some students choose to take steps to improve their application and reapply the following year. Some students will repeat courses where low grades were achieved in an effort to increase their cumulative GPA and/or their prerequisite GPA. Others, might have strong academic skills, but need to focus on experiences that will increase their knowledge and understanding of the nursing profession. If you are thinking about reapplying, you are encouraged to speak with an advisor about whether this is a realistic option and if repeating courses is a necessary or strategic option. (NOTE: there may be financial aid implications for those who repeat courses)
- ◆ **Consider an Accelerated Bachelor’s in Nursing (ABS):** Our accelerated program can be another route to consider for obtaining your bachelor’s in nursing. The accelerated program is a one year program designed for students who already have a bachelor’s degree in another area. Some students who are denied admission to the traditional program choose to pursue a degree in another area while still completing the nursing prerequisites. It may then be possible to apply in the fall of your senior year to start the accelerated nursing program right after you graduate in May. This route, can allow time to raise your GPA and strengthen your application while still graduating with a bachelor’s degree in another field. Note that admission to the ABS program is also very competitive and not guaranteed.
- ◆ **Choosing another Major:** Some students who are denied admission choose to pursue another degree program. If you are interested in other majors that would allow you to work in the field of health sciences, you may consider: Psychology, Exercise Science, Anthropology, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Social Science Interdisciplinary (Health and Human Services Concentration) or create a specialized major in Nutrition. For more information check out this link: <http://advising.buffalo.edu/yourmajor/pdf/nursing.pdf>. UB offers about 100 bachelor’s degree programs (including combined degrees), to find a major that suites you, visit: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/academicprograms/>
- ◆ **Career Services** counselors are available to meet with you to explore your options and think in new ways about choosing a major/career that is right for you: 716.645.2231 or 259 Capen Hall (North Campus). **Student Advising Services (SAS)** can also help you to explore related majors and other academic options that best meet your interests, skills, and abilities, while also aiming to obtain timely

## School of Nursing Advisement

Academic Advisors are available year round to answer questions.

For general questions, please e-mail: [nursing@buffalo.edu](mailto:nursing@buffalo.edu)

If you would like to arrange an appointment with an advisor please call (716) 829-2537.

## Resources:

UB School of Nursing:  
[www.nursing.buffalo.edu](http://www.nursing.buffalo.edu)

American Association of Colleges of Nursing:  
[www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)

American Nurses Association:  
<http://www.nursingworld.org/>

Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow:  
[www.nursesource.org](http://www.nursesource.org)

National Student Nurses Association: [www.nsna.org](http://www.nsna.org)

## Application Deadlines

**Traditional Program:**  
February 15th

**Accelerated (ABS):**  
October 1st

**To Apply:** <http://nursing.buffalo.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/traditional-program/traditional-application.html>



# Application Check List

This document outlines the minimum requirements for application to our undergraduate programs. Please use this document as guide as you prepare to apply.

**All applicants** will be required to write thoughtful and articulate explanations about why they want to become a nurse, related experiences and the essence of nursing as they perceive it. Therefore, we recommend that students seek opportunities to work, volunteer or shadow in the nursing field. Leadership experiences is also encouraged.

## Traditional Nursing Program (2 years; 4 traditional semesters, fall start only)

**Application Due:** February 15<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 prerequisite GPA or higher

\_\_\_\_\_ At least 11 prerequisites **completed** (with a grade of C or better) or **currently in progress**

- Human Anatomy (ANA113)
- Human Physiology (PGY 300)
- Chemistry (101, 111, 121 or 100)
- Pharmacology (PMY 302)
- Microbiology (MIC 301)
- Applied Pathophysiology (PGY 412)
- Nutrition (NTR 108)
- Human Growth & Dev. (NSG 250)
- Statistics (various courses)
- American Pluralism (various courses) or SOC 101 (transfer students only)
- Medical Ethics (PHI 237/337)
- Intro to Psychology (PSY 101)

## Accelerated (ABS) Nursing Program (1 year; May-May)

**Application due:** October 1<sup>st</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 prerequisite GPA or higher

\_\_\_\_\_ At least 4 prerequisites **completed** (with a grade of C or better)

- Human Anatomy (ANA113)
- Human Physiology (PGY 300)
- Chemistry (101, 111, 121 or 100)
- Pharmacology (PMY 302)
- Microbiology (MIC 301)
- Applied Pathophysiology (PGY 412)
- Nutrition (NTR 108)
- Human Growth and Dev.(NSG 250)
- Statistics (various courses)

\_\_\_\_\_ Ability to finish first Bachelor's degree prior to May start date

\_\_\_\_\_ Ability to complete remaining prerequisites prior to the program start date (Mid May)

\_\_\_\_\_ **UB Alum who are not currently attending UB must complete a re-entry form through admissions**

## Students New to UB: Additional "To Do List"

- Submit SUNY Application at least two weeks prior to submitting the nursing application. *\*Students already admitted or matriculated to UB do not need to complete this step.*
- **Send all college transcripts to the UB Admissions Office and check HUB to make sure all TR credit is posted.**
- Submit syllabi for any and all transfer courses not already articulated. You can check to see if your courses are articulated at: <http://taurus.buffalo.edu/>