

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
School of Nursing

Questions frequently asked by freshmen declaring nursing as their major:

Q. Can anyone be a nursing major?

A. Nursing is an “upper division” major in the junior and senior years, and students are admitted through competitive application. However, there are criteria to be a pre-nursing major:

1. Incoming freshmen must have either: 1) an SAT Critical Reading score of at least 500 and an SAT Mathematics score of at least 500 or 2) an ACT Composite score of at least 21, to declare pre-nursing (PNUR) as their major. Incoming freshmen who are initially ineligible to declare pre-nursing as their major may change their major to pre-nursing after successful completion of 15 semester hours of coursework at UNCG with a GPA of at least 3.0.
2. Incoming transfer and second-degree students must have a transfer GPA of 3.0 or greater to declare pre-nursing as their major upon admission to the University.
3. Pre-nursing majors must earn and maintain a 3.0 or higher in order to remain a declared pre-nursing major. Students with a GPA below 3.0 must change to a major other than pre-nursing.
4. Students wishing to change their major to pre-nursing from another major must have a 3.0 or higher cumulative UNCG GPA to do so.

Every year the School receives more applications to the upper division major than can be accepted, and students need to demonstrate strong academic performance to have a high likelihood of being accepted into the major.

Q. I don't want to take biology and chemistry the same semester. What are my options?

A. There are 8 science courses with 6 labs to take during the first two years (four semesters) of the nursing program. Eight courses in four semesters means two lab courses in some semesters. Thus, there are 3 options for students: (1) Take both Biology 110 and Chemistry 103 in the fall semester, and CHE 104 and 110L along with a biology course and lab in the spring semester; OR (2) Take Chemistry 103 in the fall, and take Biology 110 during spring semester with CHE 104 and 110L, which means you will have to take one of the remaining 3 biology courses during a summer session, but you could finish in 4 years + one summer session.

Note: Students can take BIO 111 + lab instead of BIO 110. This adds another lab to the schedule but meets a General Education requirement for a Natural Science (GNS) with lab. BIO 110 does not meet the General Education GNS requirement.

Q. I took an AP exam, and do not know how I scored. What should I do?

A. If you took it in *Biology*, sign up for BIO 110 or BIO 111+ 111L, then you can drop the course if you scored high enough on the exam. If you took it in *Chemistry*, contact the Chemistry department to schedule a chemistry placement exam, and if you do well on the exam, you can wait until spring semester to take CHE 104 and lab, or 114 and 115 (talk with your advisor after you get the AP exam score). If you took it in *any other courses*, plan your schedule to avoid those content areas. In other words, if you took the English AP exam, wait until spring semester to sign up for English, after you have received the results of the AP exam.

Q. Do I have to take foreign language?

A. For the nursing degree, college level foreign language is NOT required. If a student is admitted with a *language deficiency*, however, the student must complete study of a foreign language through the 102 level. A language deficiency means that the student did not complete the minimum amount of high school foreign language, which is two years of the same foreign language. To remove a language deficiency, a student could return to take high school language, or take language at a community college, or take the necessary course(s) at UNCG. Thus, a student who chooses to remove the language deficiency at UNCG would have to take college-level foreign language. If you have a language deficiency you were notified in your letter of admission, and you need to talk with the nursing advisor. It is rare for a recent graduate of a North Carolina public high school to be admitted with a language deficiency.

Q. Do I have to take math my freshman year?

A. Nursing students must complete statistics (STA 108) by the junior year; it does not have to be done during the freshman year.

Q. Do I have to take NUR 110 or FFL 100?

A. Students are not required to take either of these courses, but we have found that students who take one or the other often perform better during their freshman year, and that then helps them perform better throughout their time at UNCG. If possible, we highly recommend taking one or the other of these courses. Do *not* take both FFL 100 and NUR 110.

Q. What is the point in having a faculty advisor?

A. Advisors serve several roles for students. One important role is checking to see that students have planned an appropriate course schedule: the right courses, prerequisites met, and in the suggested sequence. Because the nursing curriculum has so many requirements, student who go too far “off track” with their requirements may need summer school or an extra year to finish. Advisors also serve as role models. They can tell students about working as a nurse, different career options in nursing, how to choose a first job—just answer lots of questions about nursing. Advisors also know who students can contact about tutoring, writing skills, study skills, test anxiety, or other needs that some students may have. Faculty advisors can serve the role of “sounding board” for questions and issues students may have.

Q. Do I have to have a minor?

A. No. Students who wish to pursue a minor certainly may do that, and the requirements for various minors are described in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, in the section for each department. However, because a minor typically requires 15 to 18 semester hours of course work in the selected area of study, pursuing a minor usually means the student requires an extra semester or year to graduate. Students thinking about this should talk it over with their advisors.

Q. What if I want to change my schedule, or I want to change my major, what do I do?

A. Because students may register over the WEB, you are able to adjust your schedule at any time after SOAR. All students may rearrange their class schedule during the schedule adjustment period, which begins on the first day of class, and continues for one week. During this period, a student can **drop** any or all classes, and/or **add** new or substitute courses (thus the name, **drop/add** period). Your advisor can talk this over with you. If you want to change your *major*, you may do this on the web, or go to the Registrar's Office in Mossman Building, and that office will advise you.

There are many School of Nursing and University requirements that students must meet. The School of Nursing suggests that students talk over *any* course changes with their advisors, to avoid accidentally making a decision that could significantly delay progress through the major and graduate. In the end, the student is the person responsible for meeting the degree requirements, but advice of faculty will usually prove helpful.

Q. Do I have to attend summer school? May I attend summer school?

A. The School of Nursing does not require summer school. However, many students **choose** to attend summer session, in order to lighten their academic load during the regular academic year. At UNCG, there are two 5-week summer sessions, and a student may attend 1 or both sessions. Other colleges and Universities may follow a different schedule during the summer.

Some students would like to take courses during the summer in their hometown. This is also OK, but again, students should talk over this decision with the advisor. Courses taken elsewhere can be transferred to UNCG as hours toward the degree, but will not change the UNCG grade point average. However, when you apply for admission to the upper division the application requires that you attach copies of transcripts of all post-high school education, so the Admission Committee will consider your grades in the courses you completed elsewhere in making their admission decision. Please ask your advisor about this **prior** to taking courses elsewhere, to avoid inadvertently taking a course that does not transfer or does not fill a requirement you are trying to fill.

Q. What do I have to do to be admitted to the clinical courses in the junior and senior year (Upper Division)?

A. The **Criteria for Admission** are summarized in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, in the section for the School of Nursing. Note that these are the minimum criteria for admission. There are more applicants than spaces every year, so the Admissions Committee will be looking at the performance of applicants with a goal of choosing students who have performed better than the minimum.

Q. What if I am not admitted to the Upper Division?

A. Even though there is a nationwide nursing shortage, there are more applicants to the Upper Division than can be accepted. Because admission cannot be guaranteed, students are encouraged to think through their options in the event they are not accepted to the Upper Division. There are three basic options for students who are not accepted: 1) Stay at UNCG and apply again the next year; 2) Stay at UNCG, but change majors; 3) Transfer to another nursing program. Students who apply to other nursing programs must contact each school for information about prerequisite requirements and application deadlines. Students should talk with their advisors to better understand their likelihood of being admitted, discuss career options, and learn about campus resources.

Q. What is a "full-time" student? What difference does it make?

A. UNCG defines a full-time student as one enrolled in 12 semester hours of credit or more, during the regular fall and spring semesters. It is important to remain full-time for the following reasons: students carried on their parents' health insurance must be full time; dropping below full-time may mean the student is not eligible for healthcare coverage. Living in University housing is for full-time students, so dropping below full-time may jeopardize a student's eligibility for on-campus housing. Some scholarships require full-time status, so dropping below full-time may mean that the scholarship will be forfeited for later semesters. There may be other reasons an individual must remain full-time. There also may be exceptions for special circumstances. Students should consider all of the reasons discussed in this answer, and talk with their parents and/or the Financial Aid Office if thinking about dropping below full-time. Also, see the next question about Financial Aid.

Q. I'm on Financial Aid. Does that have any relationship to enrollment?

A. The Financial Aid Office has the answers to financial aid questions. However, you need to know that if you are on financial aid, you must maintain a minimum GPA to qualify for aid in each semester. In addition, there are rules about how many hours you must complete to remain eligible for aid. The following paragraph comes from the Financial Aid website: "Each semester (Fall, Spring and Summer) a student (undergraduate or graduate) must earn a minimum of 75% of the hours registered for at the end of the schedule adjustment period, also known as Drop/Add (usually 5 days into a semester, check the University Bulletin for specific dates for specific semesters). For example: if a student had 12 hours at the end of schedule adjustment then the student would have to earn at least 9 hours to remain eligible for further financial aid (12 x .75 = 9)." This is part of the "Satisfactory Academic Progress" (SAP) Policy. For other financial aid information, go to the UNCG Homepage: www.uncg.edu. Choose either Prospective or Current Student from the list on the left, and go to the Financial Aid Office.