

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
School of Nursing

Questions frequently asked by freshmen declaring nursing as their 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 7 labs to take during the first two years (four semesters) of the nursing program. Eight courses in four semesters means two lab courses most semesters. Thus, there are 3 options for students: (1) Take both Biology 111 and lab, 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 111 during spring semester with CHE 104 and 110L. This plan 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; OR (3) Choose the 5-year plan of study for the degree.

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 111 and 111L anyway, 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 time they enter their senior year; it does not have to be done during the freshman year.

Q. Do I have to take NUR 110 or UNS 101?

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 UNS 101 and NUR 110.

Q. Why would I want the 5-year plan of study?

A. The requirements in the School of Nursing are rigorous. You would not have been admitted to UNCG unless you were thought to be capable of succeeding. However, college *is* harder than high school. Many students need to move slowly into a heavy academic program like nursing, and we recommend that students consider taking 13 or 14 semester hours their first semester. While this is a good idea academically, it often means the student will be here 5 years. Also, since it is competitive to get into the upper division clinical courses, many students find their performance is better (grades are higher) if they spread the required pre-nursing courses over 3 years instead of 2.

It is not necessary to make a decision about the 5-year plan prior to beginning your freshman year. Students can reevaluate their progress toward their degree requirements each semester. In other words, if your grades during the fall semester are not as good as you hoped they would be one option you can think about over the semester break is whether you should spread your program of study out over 5 years. You can reevaluate your progress after spring semester, and after each subsequent semester. It is also good to talk with your parents and your advisor.

Q. What if I go back home and I decide I want to change my schedule, or my parents want me 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 anytime 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 so 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. In the end, it is the student who is responsible for meeting the degree requirements, but advice of faculty will usually prove helpful.

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, deciding to pursue a minor will usually mean the student is on the 5-year plan. Students thinking about this should talk it over with their advisors.

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, and may take 1 or 2 courses each session. 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, 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 admitted: 1) Stay at UNCG and apply again the next year; 2) Stay at UNCG, but change majors; 3) Transfer to another nursing program. Students that choose to apply to other nursing programs must contact each school individually for information about prerequisite requirements and application deadlines. Students should talk with their advisor 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 the student is 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.