

NURSING, B.S.N.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, University Park, World Campus

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

General Nursing Option: Nursing, B.S.N. at University Park, Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, and Scranton Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 161 ^{*,#†1}	3 BIOL 163 ^{*,#†1}	3
BIOL 162 ^{*,#†1}	1 BIOL 164 ^{*,#†1}	1
ENGL 15 or 30H [†]	3 HDFS 129 ^{*,†}	3
PSYCH 100 ^{*,†}	3 NUTR 251 ^{*,†}	3
NURS 100 (or other First Year Seminar - as required by campus) ²	1 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C [†]	3
General Education Course (GH)	3 General Education Course (GQ) ^{†3}	3
General Education Course (GA)	3	
	17	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 130 or 110 <i>and</i> 111 ^{*,3}	3-4 SOC 1 or 5 [*]	3
MICRB 106 ^{*,†}	3 STAT 200 or 250 ^{*,††}	3-4
MICRB 107 ^{*,†}	1 NURS 225 [*]	3
NURS 250 [*]	2 NURS 230 [*]	4
NURS 251 [*]	3 Integrative Studies Interdomain Course	3
Elective	2-3	
	14-16	16-17

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURS 305 [*]	3 NURS 200W [*]	3

NURS 301 [*]	4 NURS 302 [*]	1
NURS 310 [*]	3 NURS 306 [*]	3
NURS 350 [*]	2 NURS 320 [*]	3
Integrative Studies Interdomain Course	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [†]	3
	Elective	3
	15	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURS 405A [*]	4 NURS 450B [*]	3
NURS 450A [*]	2 NURS 405B [*]	4
NURS 415 [*]	4 NURS 420 [*]	4
Elective	3 NURS 480 [*]	2
	13	13

Total Credits 120-123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

¹ BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 are Entrance-to-Major courses for students not directly admitted to the Nursing program who are applying for admission to the Commonwealth Campus Nursing programs through the Review Process.

² Alternative First Year Seminar courses can be petitioned to fulfill this requirement.

³ MATH 21 is a prerequisite for CHEM 130. MATH 22 is a prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 21 on the ALEKS Assessment Exam, any GQ may be scheduled.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Program Notes:

- Third and fourth years include 6-12 hours of clinical experience per week. Students studying at UP will spend one (either third or

fourth year, selected through a modified lottery) year or two years (years three and four) in residence at Hershey Medical Center (HMC). Otherwise, students at all campuses will attend clinicals within 50 miles of their campus location.

Advising Notes:

- GWS, GHW, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are attributes used to identify General Education requirements.
- All NURS courses define “C” as 75% or higher. See course syllabi for grade equivalents in other courses. See additional notes below.
 - See Nese College of Nursing Grading Scale and Academic Progression Policy in the B.S.N. Nursing Handbook at: <https://www.nursing.psu.edu/student-handbooks/>.
 - Clarification of Academic Progression Policy: Each prerequisite requirement permits two attempts. For example, STAT 200 and STAT 250 are the same prerequisite requirement; CHEM 130 and CHEM 110/CHEM 111 are the same prerequisite requirement, etc.
 - Most NURS courses, major requirements/prerequisites, GQ and GHW are all “C”-required courses. Elective courses, GA, GH, and the NURS 100 FYS course are not “C”-required.
- **Students should consult with their academic adviser to select appropriate courses.** Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must complete 6 credits of Integrative Studies (Inter-Domain, e.g., “dual-domain”) courses. Inter-Domain courses are designated with suffixes N (Inter-Domain) or Q (Honors Inter-Domain).
- In addition, students must complete at least 3 credits each of single-domain General Education Arts (GA) and General Education Humanities (GH) outside of Integrative studies. Effective Summer 2018+.
- BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 must be passed with a quality grade of “C” or better to progress to 2xx-level nursing courses. All 2xx clinical courses must be passed with a “C” or higher to progress to 3xx clinical courses, and all 3xx clinical courses must be passed with a “C” or higher to progress to 4xx clinical courses. Students who are unsuccessful in one or more courses will fall out of sequence and receive an individualized plan of study.
- Scheduling Patterns: NURS courses are offered only in the semester indicated with the following exceptions: NURS 200W is generally offered spring only, but an Honors section is offered in fall semester which is sometimes opened to non-Schreyer students to fill. NURS 415 and NURS 420 may be taken in fall OR spring of fourth year.
- MATH 21 (or an ALEKS score of 30+) is a prerequisite for CHEM 130. MATH 22 (or an ALEKS score of 46+) is a prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 22 (score of 61+) on the ALEKS Assessment, any GQ may be scheduled. Students who complete Calculus in high school receive an ALEKS of 101 and may schedule any GQ.
- “US, IL”, and “US; IL” are attributes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements. These University requirements are integrated into the Nursing curriculum (NURS 250 and NURS 415) and do not require additional courses to be taken.

RN to BSN Option: Nursing, B.S.N. at University Park, Abington, Shenango, and World Campus Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 161 ^{**†}	3 BIOL 163 ^{**†}	3
BIOL 162 ^{**†}	1 BIOL 164 ^{**†}	1
ENGL 15 or 30H [‡]	3 HDFS 129 ^{**†}	3
PSYCH 100 ^{**†}	3 NUTR 251 ^{**†}	3
General Education Course (GH) [†]	3 CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C [‡]	3
General Education Course (GA) [†]	3 General Education Course (GQ) ^{‡ 1,2}	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 130 or 110 <i>and</i> 111 ^{**2}	3-4 SOC 1 or 5 [*]	3
MICRB 106 ^{**†}	3 STAT 200 or 250 ^{**†}	3-4
MICRB 107 ^{**†}	1 NURS 251 or 352 [*]	3
NURS 390 ^{*3}	3 NURS Supporting Course [*]	3
NURS 357 [*]	3 Integrative Studies Interdomain Course	3
Elective	2-3	
	15-17	15-16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
NURS 417 [*]	4 NURS 200W [*]	3
Integrative Studies Interdomain Course	3 NURS 465 [*]	3
Elective	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
	10	9

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits
NURS 475 ^{*4}	3
NURS 400-level Supporting Course [*]	3
NURS Supporting Course [*]	3
	9

Total Credits 90-93

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

¹ Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must take 6 credits of Integrative Studies courses (Inter-

Domain or Linked courses). Students should consult with their academic adviser to select appropriate courses.

- ² MATH 21 is a prerequisite for CHEM 130. MATH 22 is a prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 21 on the ALEKS Assessment Exam, any GQ may be scheduled.
- ³ NURS 390 should be the first NURS course taken in the R.N. to B.S.N. option.
- ⁴ NURS 475 should be the final NURS course taken in the R.N. to B.S.N. option.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Program Notes:

- Typically, students entering the RN BSN major have many General Education and/or major requirements completed through transfer credits from other institutions. Consult with an adviser to have transfer transcripts evaluated.

Advising Notes:

- GWS, GHW, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are attributes used to identify General Education requirements.
- All NURS courses define "C" as 75% or higher. See course syllabi for grade equivalents in other courses. See additional notes below.
 - See the Nese College of Nursing Grading Scale and Academic Difficulty Policy in the RN to BSN Nursing Handbook at <https://www.nursing.psu.edu/student-handbooks/>.
- All NURS courses, major requirements/prerequisites, GQ and GHW are all "C"-required courses. Elective courses, GA, and GH are not "C"-required.
- **Students should consult with their academic adviser to select appropriate courses.** Within the 30 credits of required General Education Domain courses, students must complete 6 credits of Integrative Studies (Inter-Domain, e.g., "dual-domain") courses. Inter-Domain courses are designated with suffixes N (Inter-Domain) or Q (Honors Inter-Domain). Alternatively, this requirement may be fulfilled by successfully completing an Experiential Learning Assessment in NURS 390 or via Canvas. Effective Fall 2021+.

- In addition, students must complete at least 3 credits each of General Education Arts (GA) and General Education Humanities (GH) outside of Integrative Studies. Effective Summer 2018+.
- MATH 21 (or an ALEKS score of 30+) is a prerequisite for CHEM 130. MATH 22 (or an ALEKS score of 46+) is a prerequisite for CHEM 110. If a student places higher than MATH 22 (score of 61+) on the ALEKS Assessment, any GQ may be scheduled. Students who completed Calculus in high school receive an ALEKS of 101 and may schedule any GQ.
- “US, IL”, and “US; IL” are attributes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements. These University requirements are integrated into the Nursing curriculum (NURS 417) and do not require additional courses to be taken.
- Student’s adviser will submit Portfolio Credits to CSRS before completion of the student’s final semester.
- 45 hours clinical component required in **NURS 475**. Clinical hours are completed via a health-related project or other activity approved by the course instructor.

Second Degree in Nursing Option: Nursing, B.S.N. at Altoona, Erie, and Harrisburg Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits Summer	Credits
NURS 250*	2 NURS 350*	2 NURS 320*	3
NURS 225*	3 NURS 301*	4 NURS 306*	3
NURS 230*	4 NURS 310*	3 NURS 420*	4
NURS 305*	3 NURS 415*	4 NURS 405B*	4
NURS 251*	3 NURS 405A*	4	
	15	17	14

Second Year

Fall	Credits
NURS 302*	1
NURS 450A*	2
NURS 450B*	3
NURS 480*	2
NURS 495*	3
NURS 200W*	3
	14

Total Credits 60

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

Additional Notes:

- All General Education and prerequisite courses are completed with the student's first degree and prior to program admission.
- All courses require a quality grade of "C" or better. All NURS courses define "C" as 75% or higher.
 - See the Nese College of Nursing Grading Scale and Academic Progression Policy in the Second Degree B.S.N. Nursing Handbook at <https://www.nursing.psu.edu/student-handbooks/>.
 - The SCND curriculum is sequential and prescribed. All 2xx clinical courses must be passed with a "C" or higher to progress to 3xx clinical courses, and all 3xx clinical courses must be passed with a "C" or higher to progress to 4xx clinical courses. Students who are unsuccessful in one or more courses will fall out of sequence and receive an individualized plan of study.
- Course sequencing may vary by campus due to clinical site availability.
- "US, IL", and "US; IL" are attributes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements. "W" is the attribute used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement. These University requirements are integrated into the Nursing curriculum (NURS 250,

NURS 415, and NURS 200W) and do not require additional courses to be taken.

- NURS 495 Nursing Study in Specialized Setting: clinical immersion practicum for in-depth study and practice in a clinical specialty area of choice under a clinical preceptor. Students will work with a faculty member to identify the practicum site.