Frequently Asked Questions

4-YEAR TRACK

IS THIS AN ONLINE PROGRAM?
The 4-year Track is **NOT** an online program.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?
The program is 5 semesters long. Students begin the program in spring semester of their sophomore year.

DO YOU ACCEPT TRANSFER STUDENTS?
We do accept transfer students, but they must be admitted to BSU prior to applying to the nursing major. Prerequisite courses transferred from another school must be formally approved by the nursing department as equivalent before the nursing application is submitted. Transfer Credits

HOW LONG DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS?
The nursing program is 5 semesters long, PLUS applicants must be enrolled in the NRSG 2000 class during the fall semester. So it is really a 6-semester, on-campus commitment.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE ACCEPTED?
- Completion of at least 30 semester credits at the 0900 level and above from an accredited college or university, including the required prerequisite courses.
- A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. This GPA is required to apply to the program but does not guarantee admission.
- Two references from teachers, counselors or employers.
- Transcript with proof of a completed Nursing Assistant course (valid Practical Nurse license waives the CNA requirement) and American Heart Association BLS CPR certification.
- Enrollment in NRSG 2000 at BSU at the time of application.

Applicants should refer to the criteria and procedure as explained in the official application materials for more detailed information. Application Criteria

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED PREREQUISITE COURSES?
- BIOL 1111 Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health I and II with lab – 8 credits
- PSY 1100 Introduction to Psychology – 4 credits
- PSY 3237 Lifespan Development – 4 credits
- CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I with lab – 4 credits
- NRSG 2000 Introduction to Professional Nursing – must be taken at BSU.

Prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last 5 years. A grade of C or higher is required and courses can be repeated only once for the purpose of improving a lower grade. Prerequisite courses transferred from another school must be formally approved by the nursing department as equivalent before the nursing application is submitted.

WHAT PSEO COURSES COUNT FOR PREREQS?
If a class is included in the program of study and/or general education requirements and is taken as a PSEO course, it will count toward your degree.
DO I HAVE TO TAKE AN ADMISSION EXAM?  
Yes, the HESI Admission Assessment Exam is required for admission. The exam will be offered by the nursing department on the BSU campus soon after the application deadline.

WHAT IS THE LOWEST GPA YOU ACCEPT?  
We will review applicants who have at least a 2.5 GPA. The average GPA of students accepted is 3.4.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM EACH YEAR?  
55-65 students.

WHAT IS THE ACCEPTANCE RATE?  
It depends on the total number of applicants.

CAN I REAPPLY IF I DON’T GET IN?  
Yes, students may reapply ONCE in a future year.

HOW OFTEN ARE STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?  
Once per year in the fall.

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE NURSING PROGRAM?  
We accept applications from August 15 to September 15 only. Normally students apply in their sophomore year.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE NURSING ASSISTANT COURSE?  
Prior to applying for the program.

CAN I TEST OUT OF THE NURSING ASSISTANT COURSE AND SUBMIT MY CERTIFICATE INSTEAD?  
No. Documentation of completing a NA course is required, but the certificate is not.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE NURSING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION TEST?  
No. Documentation of completing a NA course is required, but the certificate is not.

DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE CPR AND CNA AT BSU?  
No. These classes are not offered at BSU. They are usually offered at community/technical colleges.

ARE THERE CLINICALS?  
Yes

ARE THEY JUST IN BEMIDJI?  
Most are at Sanford Bemidji Hospital but they are also in the surrounding area. Some students will complete their clinicals in Park Rapids.

WILL I BE ELIGIBLE TO GET A PHN CERTIFICATE AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM?  
Yes

DO YOU ACCEPT LPNs? HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GO FROM LPN-BSN?  
We do not have an accelerated LPN-BSN program. LPNs are welcome to apply but they will need to fulfill all of the same requirements as other students.

DO YOU HAVE AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE A BACHELOR’S DEGREE?  
We do not have an accelerated program. However, a prior degree does meet the liberal education requirements.
Frequently Asked Questions

RN-BS TRACK

What are the requirements to get in?
Is there a minimum GPA requirement? You must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to be accepted into the nursing program.

Do you have to have an AA degree or can you come in with an AS degree? You do not have to have an AA to start the program. However, the bachelor’s degree includes a general education requirement (AA, or Minnesota Transfer Curriculum), which can be completed while in the nursing program at Bemidji State University or at your local community college.

Are there any prerequisites? There are no prerequisite classes. You must have an RN license. That is all.

How do I know which courses will transfer? Visit https://www.transferology.com/ or go to the BSU nursing department website under the Apply tab, and then click on the link under “evaluate your transfer credit.” Nursing credits do not transfer.

Do I have to wait until I pass my boards to apply? You can be provisionally accepted before passing the boards; however, your license number must be submitted by July 15 in order to begin the program in the fall.

Is this an online program?
The BSU Nursing Program has 7 cohorts to choose from – 5 of them are offered in a blended format (combination of on campus & online) where students attend classes on campus three times each semester with the other weeks online. The blended format is offered at the following locations:
- Bemidji State University – Bemidji
- Lake Superior College – Duluth
- Century College – White Bear Lake
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids or Cambridge

We also offer 2 fully online cohorts (starting fall 2018), which meet on-campus only two or three times (during the NRSG 3140 class) throughout the whole program. The online format is offered at the following locations:
- Bemidji State University – Bemidji
- Northland Community and Technical College – East Grand Forks

Students choose one of the 7 cohorts at the time of application and are expected to stay in that cohort throughout program completion.

How long is the program and how many credits would I need to complete?
The program is 3 semesters long for full-time students, 5 semesters for part-time students. This includes 36 nursing credits plus 4 elective, upper-division credits (3000 or 4000 level). If general education courses are needed, it may take longer to complete the degree. You can find the Recommended Schedule on the nursing department website under the Program/RN to BS Track tab.

I was told that the nursing program includes 36 credits, but I need 40 credits at the 3000 and 4000 level. Why? And what classes do you recommend I take?
All universities in the Minnesota State system require 40 upper division credits to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Some recommended 3000 and 4000 level courses that are normally offered online include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 3920</td>
<td>Electives 1-3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 3660</td>
<td>Stats for Health Sciences 3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3210</td>
<td>Death And Culture 3 cr</td>
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ARE THERE PRACTICUMS? Yes, there is a community health experience as part of NRSG 4120.
- How many hours? 30 hours
- Where can students go for the practicum? Students can select a site convenient to them and in line with their interests.

WILL I BE ELIGIBLE TO GET A PHN CERTIFICATE AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM? Yes

HOW DO I APPLY?

Admission to BSU
Application to Bemidji State University can be made at any time. Students must be admitted to Bemidji State University through the Center for Extended Learning prior to applying for admission to the nursing major.

Application to Nursing Major
Admission to the nursing major is a separate process from admission to Bemidji State University. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis. The program has a fall semester start only. Once the program is full, applicants are placed on campus-specific waiting lists. The application window opens in early January.

Admission Requirements - Applicants Must:
- Be a graduate of a state-approved associate degree or diploma nursing program.
- Be licensed to practice as a registered nurse or be a graduate with license pending.
- Be formally admitted to Bemidji State University.
- Complete a Department of Nursing Application.
- Submit a current RN license number by July 15.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- Have access to Internet and e-mail.

Transfer Credits
The Admission’s Office will analyze your transcripts once you have been admitted to BSU. Credits previously taken at Bemidji State University will not be included in the transfer evaluation.

Admission Status
- Applicants who meet all admission requirements will be admitted with regular status.
- Applicants who are in the process of completing their final semester in their nursing program, or are awaiting licensure results, may be admitted with provisional status. Should a final transcript or licensure status indicate the applicant has not met the admission requirements, provisional status will be withdrawn. The applicant will not be considered as admitted to the program and will not be permitted to continue with enrollment in nursing courses. Enrollment in courses outside of the nursing major, however, may proceed.

Admissions Notification
- The Office of Admissions will notify applicants of their admission to BSU.
- The Center for Extended Learning will notify applicants of their admission status to the baccalaureate nursing major.
- Individuals admitted to the nursing program are required to register for fall classes by August 1. Seats in the nursing classes will not be held for admitted students after that date and will be given to others on the waitlist.
- Individuals admitted to the nursing program are required to complete an online orientation course and are encouraged to attend on-campus orientation provided by the Department of Nursing, usually scheduled on the first day of classes.