

Why Penn State Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing?

www.nursing.psu.edu

Research linking better-educated nurses to more successful patient care has prompted a national trend requiring nurses to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing for competitive job seeking and security. The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing is responding to this new demand by producing well-trained registered nurses with B.S.N. degrees. Penn State prepares more students each year for nursing careers than any other program in Pennsylvania

What are the advantages of choosing Penn State Nese College of Nursing?

- ◆ A premium academic program with broad liberal arts courses, strong foundational science classes, and an innovative nursing curriculum
- ◆ Student-centered focus, with an approximate 1:8 nursing faculty to student ratio
- ◆ Nursing students are assigned a professional academic adviser for four years and are paired with a Faculty Mentor for their third and fourth years
- ◆ Penn State students begin working with patients during second year, one year sooner than many other universities offering similar programs
- ◆ Access to cutting-edge medical research in a variety of healthcare topics
- ◆ Penn State Nursing students' clinicals take place in our technologically advanced
- ◆ Direct admit program with no second application for admission to major
- ◆ Nursing students from University Park spend either third or fourth year at world-renowned Hershey Medical Center, a Level I Trauma facility
- ◆ Penn State nursing students accumulate nearly 900 clinical hours by the time they graduate
- ◆ 93% first-time pass rate on NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) for Penn State Nursing students in 2021
- ◆ The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- ◆ Exclusive health-related study abroad programs available only to nursing students



How can you prepare for nursing now?

While in high school, there are many things you can do to help learn if nursing is right for you.

- ◆ Maintain a high GPA
- ◆ Develop solid organizational, test-taking and study skills
- ◆ Take algebra, geometry, and other higher-level mathematics courses
- ◆ Complete social science courses, like psychology or sociology
- ◆ Obtain certification in first-aid and CPR
- ◆ Volunteer or shadow a medical professional at a hospital, nursing home, clinic or doctor's office
- ◆ Talk to family members or friends who are nurses, or interview nurses in your community
- ◆ Join HOSA—Future Health Professionals, or a similar organization, if offered at your school
- ◆ Select anatomy, physiology and chemistry classes

What opportunities are there in nursing careers?

Here is a list of just a few career paths available to graduates of Penn State Nese College of Nursing:

- ◆ **Critical Care** - work with the critically ill or injured in the intensive care unit
- ◆ **Neonatal** - provide complete care for newborns: weighing, feeding and monitoring health
- ◆ **Travel** - take on short-term assignments to temporarily fill a staff opening; can be anywhere in the U.S.
- ◆ **Oncology** - care for cancer patients
- ◆ **Emergency Room** - work in a fast-paced environment with critical, life-threatening cases
- ◆ **Doctor's Office** - work one-on-one with patients, taking vital signs, collecting information, doing blood work and giving injections
- ◆ **Cruise Ship** - provide day-to-day health care to passengers and crew members
- ◆ **Psychiatric** - assess mental health, monitor and administer psychotropic medications
- ◆ **Hospice** - care for people with terminal illnesses
- ◆ **Respiratory** - promote pulmonary health for individuals and families
- ◆ **Insurance** - evaluate patient claims and teach classes to insurance agents

Suggested Academic Plan for B.S.N. Degree in Nursing (NURS/GNURS)

for students at University Park, Altoona, Erie/Behrend, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, and Scranton

Effective Fall 2021/ NEW Curriculum & Integrative Studies. See IMPORTANT NOTES on back.

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits
BIOL 161 & 162 (GN) Anatomy & Physiology I (Lecture & Lab)	4	BIOL 163 & 164 (GN) Anatomy & Physiology II (Lecture & Lab)	4
ENGL 15 (GWS) or ENGL 30 (GWS) Composition/Honors Comp.	3	HD FS 129 (GS) Intro to Human Development and Family Studies	3
PSYCH 100 (GS) Introductory Psychology	3	NUTR 251 (GHW) Introductory Principles of Nutrition	3
NURS 100 First-Year Seminar (if required by campus)	1	CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C (GWS) Effective Speech	3
Integrative Studies: Inter-domain course, <u>WITH</u> Humanities (GH) <u>OR</u> Arts (GA) *	3	Quantification (GQ) (selected MATH based upon ALEKS score)	3
Humanities (GH) (NOT Integrative Studies)	3		
Total Credits:	17	Total Credits:	16
Semester 3	Credits	Semester 4	Credits
CHEM 130 (GN) or CHEM 110 (GN) & CHEM 111 (GN)	3-4	SOC 1 (GS) or SOC 5 (GS) Intro to Sociology/Social Problems	3
Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry /Chemical Principles with lab			
MICRB 106 (GN) Elementary Microbiology	3	STAT 200 (GQ) or STAT 250 (GQ) Elementary Statistics or Introduction to Biostatistics	3-4
MICRB 107 (GN) Elementary Microbiology Laboratory	1	NURS 225 Pathophysiology (PATHO)	3
NURS 250 (US) Professional Role Development I: <u>Intro</u> to Professional Issues in Nursing Practice and Nursing Informatics	2	NURS 230 Introduction to the <u>Fundamentals</u> of Nursing	4
NURS 251 <u>Health Assessment</u>	3	Integrative Studies: Inter-domain course (any combination) *	3
Elective	2-3		
Total Credits:	14-16	Total Credits:	16-17
Semester 5	Credits	Semester 6	Credits
NURS 301 Nursing Care of the Adult Client Requiring Medical-Surgical Intervention (MED-SURG)	4	NURS 200W Principles of Nursing <u>Research</u> and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 305 Introduction to Pharmacological Concepts (PHARM)	3	NURS 302 Medical-Surgical Immersion (MED-SURG Immersion)	1
NURS 310 Therapeutic Nursing Care of the Older Adult Client in a Variety of Settings (GERO)	3	NURS 306 Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents (PEDS)	3
NURS 350 Professional Role Development II: <u>Ethics</u> , Legal and Genetic Issues	2	NURS 320 Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family and Gynecological Client (OB)	3
Arts (GA) (NOT Integrative Studies)	3	ENGL 202A, ENGL 202B, ENGL 202C, or ENGL 202D (GWS) Effective Writing	3
		Elective	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	16
Semester 7	Credits	Semester 8	Credits
NURS 405A Nursing Care of the Adult Client with <u>Complex</u> Health Problems: Part A (MED-SURG)	4	NURS 405B Nursing Care of the Adult Client with <u>Complex</u> Health Problems: Part B (MED-SURG)	4
NURS 450A Professional Role Development III: <u>Leadership</u> and Management	2	NURS 450B Professional Role Development III: Clinical <u>Capstone</u>	3
NURS 415 (US; IL) <u>Community</u> and Family Health Nursing	4	NURS 420 <u>Mental Health</u> Nursing	4
Elective	3	NURS 480 <u>NCLEX</u> Preparation	2
Total Credits:	13	Total Credits:	13

See IMPORTANT NOTES on back See IMPORTANT NOTES on back See IMPORTANT NOTES on back

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. GWS, GHW, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are attributes used to identify General Education requirements.
2. **Bold Type** indicates courses requiring a quality grade of C or better. All **NURS** courses define “C” as 75% or higher. See course syllabi for grade equivalents in other courses. See additional notes below.
 - a.) 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/>
 - i. 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 110/111 are the same prerequisite requirement, etc.
 - b.) 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.
3. 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 courses (Inter-domain or Linked courses). Nursing students may utilize electives, GA or GH to fulfill this requirement.
4. 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 and beyond.
5. BIOL 161/162 and BIOL 163/164 must be passed with a quality grade of C or better in order to progress to 200-level nursing courses.
6. **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 420 may be taken in fall OR spring of fourth year.
7. **Program Notes:** Third and fourth years include 6-12 hours of clinical experience per week. Students studying at UP will spend either third or fourth year in residence at Hershey Medical Center (HMC). Otherwise, students at all campuses will attend clinicals within 50 miles of their campus location.
8. **Academic Advising Notes:** MATH 21 (or an ALEKS score of 30+) is a prerequisite for CHEM 130. MATH 22 (or an ALEKS score of 46+) is 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. MATH 97 is accepted as a GQ equivalent to MATH 21 for Nursing.
9. **Italic Bold Type** indicates courses requiring a quality grade of C or better and that satisfy both major and General Education requirements. Underlined courses are common abbreviations or names for courses.
10. “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.
11. “W” is the attribute used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions for the General Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing

What is the General Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing?

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) General Option is a 4-year program that combines foundational science and liberal arts courses with nursing courses that include hands-on experience in clinical settings. Graduates are prepared to sit for the national exam (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as registered nurses.

Where is the Nursing Program offered?

The 4-year B.S.N. is offered at University Park (includes Hershey Medical Center campus), Altoona, Behrend (Erie), Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, and Scranton.

Can I change campuses?

Students may not change campus locations for the nursing degree. Students must complete the program at the campus where they begin. However, students admitted to University Park will spend one year at the Hershey Medical Center campus as part of the University Park program.

Is the Nursing Program accredited?

Yes, the B.S.N. program is accredited by the CCNE:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

One Dupont Circle, NW

Suite 530

Washington, DC 20036

202-887-6791

How competitive is the Nursing Program?

Admission is competitive. In a typical year, The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing receives upwards to 4,000 applications, with the intent to yield 160 students at University Park and an additional 250 students across the other campuses where the B.S.N. program is offered.

When does the Nursing Program begin?

The program begins every year in the fall. There is no spring admission.

However, students may elect to begin University coursework in the summer. First-year nursing students at University Park have the option to participate in the following unique summer opportunity:

- LEAP (Learning Edge Academic Program) is an optional summer program reserved for first-year students to assist with the transition to college. LEAP is an opportunity for new students to start their Penn State career in a small-college atmosphere within the larger University. Students enroll in a LEAP section of two courses with a small group, or “pride”, who live together in the same dormitory area and have an upper-class student mentor to guide them through their first semester. LEAP will complete the first-year seminar requirement. More information can be found at <http://summersession.psu.edu/leap/>. The Nese College of Nursing does not recommend a specific LEAP section, but Nursing students may find the sections offering ENGL 15, CAS 100, HDFS 129 or STAT 200 particularly helpful in completing their degree requirements.

Will applying for the summer semester at University Park improve my chance of being admitted to the Nursing Program?

Students applying to the Nursing Program may be considered for admission to the summer session at the University Park campus; however, application to the summer session does not provide an advantage towards being accepted into the Nursing Program at University Park.

What are the admission requirements?

The following high school courses (or a college equivalent) are required:

- four years of English
- three years of science
- three years of math (algebra, geometry, or trigonometry)
- three years of social studies/art/humanities combined
- two years of a single world language other than English. Students lacking two years of the same world language who graduated from high school after 2001 will be required to take one course in a world language within the first two years.
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Are students admitted directly into the Nursing Program?

Yes, first-year applicants are admitted directly into the Nursing Program. Transfer students are eligible to apply to the four-year B.S.N. program at one of the six Commonwealth Campuses through a competitive entrance-to-major process. Transfer students should contact their campus of interest to discuss admission requirements.

CAMPUS	HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OR ADULTS WITH LESS THAN 18 COLLEGE CREDITS	PENN STATE STUDENTS OR ADULTS WITH 18 OR MORE COLLEGE CREDITS
Altoona, Behrend (Erie), Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton	First-year direct admission into the major	Must have earned C or higher in Anatomy and Physiology (or A&P I and II) and at least 9 other non-remedial credits
University Park	First-year direct admission into the major	Not eligible for admission
		Entrance to major information

What are the average SAT or ACT scores and the average high school GPA for students offered admission into Penn State?

The ranges in the chart below represent the middle 50 percent of students offered admission to Penn State for Fall 2021 – they are not cutoffs or averages. Nursing students typically place in the upper end of these ranges. Additional information is available at <http://admissions.psu.edu/apply/statistics/>.

Academic Scale	University Park	All other Campuses
High School GPA (unweighted 4.0 scale)	3.56-3.91	3.06-3.65

Summer/Fall 2021 Middle 50% GPA Statistics based on an unweighted 4.0 scale.

Academic Scale	University Park	All other Campuses
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing + Math	1280-1450	1090-1300

Summer/Fall 2021 Middle 50% SAT Statistics
Scores computed based on a 1600-point scale.

**Test scores represent students admitted to their first-choice campus*

Through Summer/Fall 2023 First-Year applicants to Penn State will be able to choose whether to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of their applications. More information can be found at <https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/statistics/>.

What is the deadline for application?

The deadline for application for the Nursing Program is December 1 and admission is competitive. Late applications are typically considered on a space-available basis only. We recommend that students strive to meet the Admissions Early Decision deadline of November 1.

Who makes admissions decisions?

Penn State admissions decisions are made through our centralized Undergraduate Admissions Office for all Penn State campuses and programs. The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing does not evaluate applications. If you have questions about your application or the decision-making process, please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office by email at admissions@psu.edu, by phone at 814-865-5471, or through your MyPennState account.

Is special housing available for first-year nursing students at University Park?

First-year students are required to live on campus and may be assigned to any residence hall. However, there are Special Living Options (SLO) that are available to students who would like to live and learn with classmates who share their interests. For example, Health and Human Development (HHD) House is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a health-related major, as well as students who are committed to healthy living. Students **do not** need to be in the College of HHD to be eligible to live in this SLO. Students live with other members of their SLO in close-knit communities ("houses") located in the residence halls, where they have the opportunity to participate in field trips, group dinners, and other social and educational activities. SLO options are limited. Contact Penn State Housing Services <http://www.housing.psu.edu/> for more information if you are interested.

How much is tuition?

Tuition and fees are available at <http://tuition.psu.edu/>. A tuition calculator is available here: <http://tuition.psu.edu/costestimate.aspx>.

Consistent with other academic institutions, Penn State charges lower-division and upper-division tuition based on credits earned. Students with 59.1 earned credits will be charged upper-division tuition, which is based on the primary campus designation and the program of study. Information on these rates for the current academic year can be found at <http://tuition.psu.edu/tuitiondynamic/tuitionandfees.aspx> by selecting applicable state residency and campus. Tuition and fee rates are subject to change.

Are there any additional costs or requirements?

1. Nursing students must purchase a personal laptop computer to participate in classroom-based assignments and Nursing examinations throughout the course of the program.
2. In addition to standard tuition and fees, Nursing students may expect to spend approximately \$3,600 or more throughout the program for textbooks, uniforms, curriculum support materials (such as ATI software and simulation lab supplies), and clinical compliances, which include child abuse and criminal clearances, fingerprinting, liability insurance, a completed physical, and other costs.
3. Clinical sites require anyone working on their premises to be appropriately vetted. In the Nese College of Nursing, we refer to these requirements as "compliances". Each May following the nursing students' first year of enrollment, students must complete the following requirements:
 - Pass an annual physical examination, which includes one-time antibody titers, vaccination history, and immunizations. Please be aware that insurance may or may not provide coverage for these medical requirements
 - **Students must be fully vaccinated to participate in clinicals.** Required vaccinations include COVID and all boosters.*
 - Complete Pennsylvania and federal criminal background checks (fingerprinting is required and students must be free of felony convictions in the past ten years)**
 - Complete Pennsylvania child abuse background checks
 - Provide proof of medical coverage (student insurance policies are available)
 - Purchase professional liability (malpractice) insurance
 - Complete the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR course
 - Complete a 10-point drug test

All program requirements must be met and submitted **on time each year** in order to progress in the program.

Required vaccines include all childhood vaccinations AND COVID vaccinations with current boosters. While Penn State has a process for religious, medical, or other exemptions, our clinical sites do not. Since clinical participation requires all vaccines and the Nursing Program requires clinical in order to be eligible for licensure, only fully vaccinated students will be successful in completing the Nursing curriculum.Questions regarding how criminal history affects nursing licensure should be directed to the student's state board of nursing.*

What financial aid is available?

If you are enrolled as a degree-seeking student, you may be eligible for various federal and state grants or loans. Contact the Office of Student Aid at <http://studentaid.psu.edu/> for more information.

Completion of the FAFSA form automatically enters students into consideration for scholarships offered by the Nese College of Nursing. Information is available at <http://www.nursing.psu.edu/undergraduate/financial-aid>. It is the student's responsibility to look into various hospitals, professional associations, military groups, community or other organizations which may also offer scholarships or low-interest loans.

How will transfer credits and Advanced Placement (AP) credits fit into the nursing curriculum?

Transfer credits and AP credits may sometimes be applied to general education or elective credits. Admissions determines whether credits from other institutions will be accepted. The Nese College of Nursing determines how these credits are applied towards your degree. Keep in mind that these credits will not impact your GPA at Penn State. These credits have the potential benefit of decreasing course load, which could provide students with the opportunity to explore a minor or other interests if desired. *However, please note that a tuition increase takes place when a student reaches 59.1 credits. Students bringing in credits may reach this tuition "bump" earlier.* Please communicate with the Academic Advising Office if you plan to bring in college-level credits. Additional information on how Penn State awards credits for AP exams can be found at <http://admissions.psu.edu/academics/credit/ap/>.

What and where are clinical courses?

Clinical courses typically involve a lecture and a hands-on component in a clinical setting. Clinical sites may be anywhere within a 50-mile radius of campus. Clinical experiences and schedules vary each semester, but they are typically offered in six- to eight-hour blocks between 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. Nursing students participate in nearly 900 hours of diverse and educationally rewarding clinical experiences. University Park students spend one or more years (third and/or fourth year) at the Hershey Medical Center Campus. Housing is reserved for nursing students at Hershey. Our state-of-the-art simulation labs provide confidence-building practice to students beginning your third semester. Our labs include:

- Health Assessment/Skills Lab
- Home Health
- Critical Care
- Pediatrics
- Maternity/Newborn
- Advanced Practice Primary Care Labs.

Examples of B.S.N. Clinical Sites

Clinical locations may include:

- Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital
- Mount Nittany Medical Center
- Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
- Philhaven Behavioral Healthcare
- The Meadows Psychiatric Center
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Altoona
- Doctors' offices
- Schools or prisons
- Assisted living facilities

Will I need to have my own car?

Nursing students are required to have their own transportation starting in the spring semester of second year. Carpooling may be an option during the second year, *but students should not rely on this option*. Students are responsible for getting themselves to their clinical sites throughout the Nursing Program.

Will I go to Hershey Medical Center?

Hershey Medical Center (HMC) is a Level I Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric populations. Nursing students at University Park are required to spend one academic year in Hershey, PA studying at HMC. In second year, students are assigned via modified lottery to third or fourth year at HMC. Possible exceptions to this requirement may be Schreyer Scholars, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), and student athletes who fall under the NCAA requirements in order to maintain eligibility (this does not include cheerleading, the Lionettes Dance Team, club sports, or the Blue Band). Students may request to spend both their third and their fourth year in Hershey. Commonwealth Campus students participate in clinical experiences within a 50-mile radius of their campus.

Are meal plans and housing offered while I'm at Hershey?

Students are responsible for providing their own meals during their time at Hershey. There is not a meal plan option. Grocery stores are within a five- to ten-minute drive. Penn State provides apartment-style housing that is a short walk to the Hershey Medical Center. There are four nursing students in each apartment. Each student has his or her own bedroom and shares a common bathroom, kitchen, and living area. Students also have the option to live off-campus if desired. There is no additional fee for parking for students at Hershey.

Am I able to complete the Pre-medicine program with the nursing degree?

With careful planning and collaboration with the program of interest, it may be possible to complete the Pre-medicine curriculum concurrent to the Nursing Program. The traditional medical model approaches patient health. Because the Nursing Program is highly structured, students should discuss any plans for the Pre-medicine curriculum with their Academic Adviser as soon as possible.

Am I able to complete a minor/certificate with the nursing degree?

With careful planning and collaboration with the program of interest, it may be possible to complete a minor or certificate concurrent to the Nursing Program. Because the Nursing Program is highly structured, students should discuss any plans for a minor or certificate with their Academic Adviser as soon as possible.

We are often asked for “typical” minors and certificates completed by Nursing students. Typical minors include [Human Development and Family Studies](#) (HDFS), [Child Maltreatment and Advocacy](#) (CMAS), [Psychology](#) (PSYCH), and [Deafness and Hearing Studies](#) (DHS). The Nese College of Nursing offers two Nursing Certificates, [Nursing Forensics](#) and [Nursing Informatics](#), through the World Campus. However, students may complete any minor or certificate available at University Park, provided they meet minor requirements.

Can I specialize?

Upon graduation, Penn State entry-level nurses are prepared to practice as generalists and can work in any number of settings. True specialization requires graduate education.

Are there any social/professional groups for Nursing students?

Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing Student Ambassadors (CONAm)

This student group represents the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing and provides a student perspective at information and recruitment events. Ambassadors embody Nursing students of varied interests, activities and backgrounds and volunteer to share their love of Penn State and all things nursing.

Men in Nursing

Men in Nursing facilitates opportunities for networking and mentoring and assists interested males with information about the nursing major. Additionally, Men in Nursing actively promotes men's health, influencing factors that affect men as nurses, and joins with all nursing students and nurses in providing services and support for the underprivileged. For more information or to join, go to

<https://orgcentral.psu.edu/organization/men-in-nursing>.

The Multicultural Student Nursing Association (MSNA)

MSNA was recently formed to provide an inclusive environment to multicultural students and allies in the Nursing major. MSNA coordinates social events and educational opportunities that create a safe space for students to strengthen community and develop professional skills for career success.

<https://news.psu.edu/story/605856/2020/01/29/new-student-group-launches-multi-cultural-student-nursing-association>

Sigma Theta Tau

Students with outstanding records of scholarship and leadership are invited to join Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing. Penn State is home to the Beta Sigma chapter, one of more than 150 chapters of Sigma Theta Tau located at colleges and universities throughout the world.

SNAPS

Each campus has a chapter of the Student Nurses Association of Penn State (SNAPS), the state-approved organization of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA). SNAPS activities include professional development, community service and outreach, as well as social activities. Penn State's chapter of SNAPS also actively participates in THON, which is the largest student-run philanthropic event in the world to raise money to fight pediatric cancer. See <http://www.nsna.org/> or <http://www.snap.psu.edu/> for more information.

Can I study abroad?

Nursing students who wish to study abroad have the following options:

- Penn State Nese College of Nursing faculty offer short-term international experiences called "Embedded Programs". Experiences vary each year. Students are sent information on available opportunities for the upcoming academic year.
- Global Penn State offers experiences during the summer or other breaks. Information can be found at <http://global.psu.edu/going-abroad>.
- Other opportunities are available through student organizations, such as the PSU Global Brigades. Information on this organization can be found at <http://www.pslugmb.org/>.
- One minor that Nursing students interested in studying abroad may want to consider is the Global Health Minor. This minor allows students to explore health issues and challenges affecting populations across the globe and incorporates a 6-week international "Global Health Fieldwork Experience" course. More information can be found at <http://bbh.hhd.psu.edu/globalhealth>.

Due to the sequenced nature of the nursing curriculum, nursing students can complete traditional study abroad only during the summer or other breaks. Students who complete traditional study abroad programs during fall or spring semesters will find themselves a year behind in the curriculum.

How will Penn State prepare me for the NCLEX-RN exam?

The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) is the national licensing examination for all registered nurses. Passing this exam after graduation is the final step in becoming a nurse. Penn State prepares nursing students early for their licensing examination by introducing Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Nursing Education beginning second year. The ATI software incorporates practice exams and focused NCLEX-RN preparation. Additional information about ATI Nursing Education can be found at <https://www.atitesting.com/Home.aspx>.

Currently, the first time pass rate for Penn State Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing students is 93% based on statistics from the Pennsylvania Department of State. According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the national average first time pass rate in 2021 was 86%

(https://www.ncsbn.org/Table_of_Pass_Rates_2021_Q4.pdf). While these numbers change slightly from year to year, Penn State Nursing students' pass rate is consistently above the state and national averages.

What other supports does Nursing offer to students?

Just as you're invested in your education, we are invested in your academic, personal, and professional success. In addition to the technology, clubs & organizations, student services and resources that Penn State offers to all students, Nese College of Nursing students have access to:

Academic Advising- You will be assigned an academic adviser at New Student Orientation (NSO), and will remain with that adviser through graduation. Advisers are similar to your high school counselors, but different in that you are expected to take responsibility for regularly checking in with your adviser. At minimum, plan to schedule an appointment with your adviser once per semester for an academic and scheduling check-up, but your adviser can also explain and facilitate Penn State policy and processes, help you connect to resources, advocate for and support you. Advisers offer weekly Office Hours, regular Walk-In/Zoom-In ours at key times of the year, and group advising. Our advisers' backgrounds are in counseling and education.

Faculty Advising- In your third year, you will also be assigned to a nursing faculty adviser. Your faculty adviser may be based at Hershey or at University Park, and is available to discuss career planning and professional development. In your professional development coursework, you will create your resume for your job search, and participate in a brief mock interview.

Academic Success Coach- Students may contact the Success Coach on their own, and may also be referred by faculty or advisers. The Success Coach can help with time management, study skills, and course content, in addition to referring you to other resources.

Career Fair- A Nursing Career Fair is sponsored each fall for Nursing students to connect with recruiters and companies from Pennsylvania and some surrounding states. Additionally, Penn State's Bank of America Career Services Office hosts career fairs each semester. All of these events offer both internship/externship and job opportunities.

Alumni Mentoring Program- Rising third-year students (juniors) may apply for the Alumni Mentoring Program to be matched with a Nese College of Nursing Alumnus through the students' graduation. Mentoring pairs are required to attend a kick-off event, meet at least once a month with at least one meeting per year being in-person.

CONversations with Dr. Brown- These monthly, open-forum Zoom-In sessions with our Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and the UP and Hershey Nursing Programs Coordinators Dr. Nelson and Dr. Barton will provide updates on the Nursing program, respond to questions, and elicit your thoughts on programmatic topics, students' needs and concerns, and any other topics that arise. CONversations are a great way to connect with Nese leadership and have your voice heard.

What does a typical day look like for a Nursing student?

The chart below shows examples of a typical “day in the life” of two of our students. Ellen is a first-year student involved in Nese CON Ambassadors and SNAPS. Freda is a second year ROTC student who also finds time for Nese CON Ambassadors, SNAPS, Christian Organizations, and THON.

Ellen

8:30am wakeup, 8:30am-10:00am	Get ready, breakfast, relax, last minute studying
10:00am-11:30am/12:30pm	First class or two of the day
11:30am-1:00pm	Gym for a lift or cycling class
1:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch (sometimes studying) with friends at the HUB
1:30pm-2:30pm	Study/homework
2:30pm/4:00pm-3:30pm/6:00pm	Last class/lab
6:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm	Club meetings (if there are)
7:00pm-11:30pm/12:00am	Studying, homework, reviewing notes
12:30am-1:00am	Bedtime

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4:30am wakeup, 5:30am-7:00am	ROTC physical training
6:30am wakeup	If no ROTC, personal workout, get ready/eat
9:00am-11:00am	Class
11:00am-1:25pm	Study, eat, meetings
1:30pm-3:30pm	Class
3:30pm-6:00pm	Study, meetings
6:00pm-8:00pm	Clubs/Organizations
9:30pm-12:00am	Bedtime depends on ROTC physical training in the morning

Our students participate in Greek life, ROTC, Athletics, Schreyer Honors College, and numerous clubs, groups and activities. Many hold part-time jobs or volunteer while in school. Setting realistic involvement goals and managing time wisely are key.

Class sizes at Penn State can vary from as few as 25 for English, Speech and Language classes and Science labs to as many as 800 for large lectures such as Anatomy & Physiology. Nursing class sizes range from 8-10 in clinicals to 75-80 in lectures, with one third-year course, Professional Role Development I (NURS 250), for the entire second-year Nursing cohort (150-160).

What graduate programs are available at Penn State?

Ph.D. and D.N.P. Programs:

- Penn State offers a B.S.N. to Ph.D. degree program for highly qualified students to pursue doctoral study directly from their B.S.N. program. This program incorporates a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree, which prepares nurse scientists and clinical scholars to continue on for the Ph. D. in Nursing. There is also an M.S.N. to Ph.D. degree program for students with an M.S. degree. Nursing Ph.D. students may pursue additional trainings in bioethics through the dual-title Ph.D. program in Nursing and Bioethics.
- Penn State offers a D.N.P. degree program online through Penn State World Campus with two entry options: directly from the B. S.N., or post-M.S.N. The D.N.P is a professional, practice-focused doctoral degree.

M.S.N. Programs:

- Penn State offers an M.S.N. degree program at selected Penn State campus locations with three Advanced Practice options: Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, and Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.
- Penn State offers an M.S.N. degree program online through Penn State World Campus with two Advanced Role options: Nurse Administrator and Nurse Educator.

A B.S.N. is required for admission to a graduate program of study in Nursing at Penn State. Graduate-level nursing certificates are also available. Additional information on the graduate programs can be found at <http://nursing.psu.edu/graduate>.

Helpful Websites:

Admission and University Statistics: <http://admissions.psu.edu/apply/statistics/>

ATI Nursing Education: <https://www.atitesting.com/Home.aspx>

Nese College of Nursing: <http://www.nursing.psu.edu/>

Nese College of Nursing Financial Aid Opportunities: <http://nursing.psu.edu/undergraduate/financial-aid>

Credit from Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: <http://admissions.psu.edu/academics/credit/ap/>

Graduate Programs: <http://nursing.psu.edu/graduate>

Housing: University Park: <http://www.housing.psu.edu/>

LEAP: <http://summersession.psu.edu/leap/>

New Student Orientation: <https://orientation.psu.edu/up>

Office of Student Aid: <http://studentaid.psu.edu/>

Penn State Office of the Bursar: <http://www.bursar.psu.edu/>

Penn State Undergraduate Admissions: <http://admissions.psu.edu/>

Residence Life: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/reslife/>

SNAPS: <http://www.nsna.org> and <http://www.snap.psu.edu/>

Study Abroad: <http://global.psu.edu/going-abroad>, and <http://www.psuymb.org/>

Tuition: <http://tuition.psu.edu/>

Tuition Calculator: <http://tuition.psu.edu/costestimate.aspx>

For more information:

Please email nursing@psu.edu or call 814-863-2229.