

## Overview of Preparing for a Career in Nursing

### First Step: Exploring Nursing

- What experiences have you had that make you interested in nursing?
- What are your goals and expectations for a major?
- What skills do you associate with a good nurse? What activities/experiences would help you develop these skills?
- What can you do to learn more about careers in nursing?

### Second Step: Getting Involved

- What are your goals and expectations for volunteer experiences? What have you learned or could you learn about yourself and other people by serving others?
- Consider the populations you have served or worked with in any capacity. Do you have breadth and depth of experience with different groups of people?
- What are your research interests? What do you want to learn through research?
- Keep track of your experiences through college (volunteering, research, paid employment, shadowing, hobbies, student organizations, study abroad). Regularly reflect on and write about the competencies (skills and personal attributes) you develop and the ways you learn and grow in the course of each experience.

### Third Step: Preparing Your Application

- Do you hope to apply after your junior year, or will you be a stronger applicant after taking a gap year (or two)?
- Develop meaningful relationships with faculty and supervisors by talking with them about their work and career paths, your coursework, and your interest in nursing.
- Talk with an advisor at CPHA about steps of the application process the summer before you apply.

### Fourth Step: Taking a Gap Year

- What would your goals and expectations be for a gap year?
- What area of your application might you strengthen during a gap year? How could you do this?

## Planning Table

Fall	Spring	Summer

## Accelerated Nursing Planning Guide

Keep in mind that course preparation varies from school to school. This is a summary of the most common requirements. Note that this guide is not for UW-Madison's undergraduate nursing program. It is for accelerated nursing programs only.

Course	Options at UW – Madison
<b>General Chemistry</b>	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemistry 103 (lecture + lab) and Chemistry 104 (lecture + lab)</li> <li>• Chemistry 108 (lecture + lab)</li> </ul>
<b>Introductory Biology</b>	Three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoology 101 (lecture) and Zoology 102 (lab)</li> <li>• Biology 151 (lecture + lab) and Biology 152 (lecture + lab)</li> <li>• Biocore</li> </ul>
<b>Microbiology</b>	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microbiology 101 (lecture) and Microbiology 102 (lab)</li> <li>• Microbiology 303 (lecture) and Microbiology 304 (lab)</li> </ul>
<b>Anatomy</b>	Anatomy 337 (lecture)
<b>Physiology</b>	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physiology 335 (lecture + lab)</li> <li>• Physiology 435 (lecture + lab)</li> </ul>
<b>Psychology</b>	Psychology 202
<b>Human Development</b>	Four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HDFS 362</li> <li>• HDFS 363</li> <li>• Psychology 460</li> <li>• Psychology 464</li> </ul>
<b>English, Literature, or Communications</b>	6 credits: many options; look for literature and composition courses

(Some accelerated nursing programs require coursework in Organic Chemistry, Anthropology or Sociology, Nutrition, and a class in Medical Terminology. Some also require CNA certification.)

### Resources

#### *Tutoring resources available on UW campus*

- Greater University Tutoring Services (GUTS) <http://guts.wisc.edu>
- Peer Learning Association (PLA) <https://win.wisc.edu/organization/pla>
- Chemistry Learning Center (CLC) <https://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc>
- Physics Learning Center (PLC) <https://www.physics.wisc.edu/plc>
- Math Lab <https://www.math.wisc.edu/undergraduate/mathlab>
- Statistics Lab [https://www.stat.wisc.edu/courses/Tutorial\\_Schedule](https://www.stat.wisc.edu/courses/Tutorial_Schedule)
- Writing Center <http://www.writing.wisc.edu>

#### *Professional organizations*

- American Nurses Association <http://www.nursingworld.org>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing <http://www.aacn.nche.edu>