

Nursing (Registered Nursing)

What is Nursing (by Registered Nurses or RNs)?

“Registered nurses are self-regulated health-care professionals who work autonomously and in collaboration with others. RNs enable individuals, families, groups, communities and populations to achieve their optimal level of health. RNs coordinate healthcare, deliver direct services and support clients in their self-care decisions and actions in situations of health, illness, injury and disability in all stages of life. RNs contribute to the healthcare system through their work in direct practice, education, administration, research and policy in a wide array of settings.”
Canadian Nurses Association - www.cna-aiic.ca

Where can I study Nursing (BScN) to become an RN?

There are 14 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) programs in Ontario, which lead to registration as an RN.

Many universities offer the second entry/compressed/accelerated option (ranging from 19 months to 28 months) for students who started degrees in other subjects and want to “transfer” to nursing:

- Lakehead University (compressed, 3 years)
- McMaster University (accelerated, 20 months)
- Queen’s University (advanced standing, 2 years)
- Trent University (compressed, 28 months)
- University of Ottawa (second entry, 24 months)
- University of Toronto (2 years)
- Western University (compressed, 19 months)
- York University (second entry, 2 years)

There are typically specific course requirements to be earned in advance (see box below).

What are the common academic requirements for BScN?

For Second Degree Entry or Compressed BScN programs (typically 19-28 months in duration), students are required to have:

- At least 20 courses/10 credits completed prior to admission
- Minimum academic requirement is B or 3.0 or 75% in the final 2 years
- Prerequisites vary by institution but may include courses in biology/life science (human anatomy and physiology), statistics, psychology, humanities and social sciences

Be sure to visit each university’s website for more information on their program and specific admission requirements as some have unique prerequisites such as microbiology, chemistry and/or high school credits.

Start Early!

Nursing programs require a high GPA. Many look for demonstrated interest in healthcare in your application.

Improve your GPA:

Visit the AA&CC and the Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) to improve your academic skills.

Cultivate References:

Get to know your professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.

Get Involved:

Join volunteer and co-curricular activities that demonstrate your skills and ongoing interest in a career in nursing.

Looking for Related Experience?

Review the *Volunteering and Internships tip sheets*, attend a *Work Search Strategies* workshop or speak with a Career Counsellor or Career Strategist.

When and how do I apply?

- Application intake for some program begins as early as November with deadlines ranging from December to March. Please check individual program websites for specific dates.
- Most applications are submitted through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre using OUAC form 105: www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105
- Current U of T students would use the Internal Application to apply to Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at U of T: www.adm.utoronto.ca/admissions

What application components may be required?

Different programs require different components, such as:

- Official transcripts from all post-secondary studies and high school
- Supplementary information form
- Personal statement
- References (academic and work/volunteer)
- Interview

Alternatives to Second Entry Nursing

Students are also encouraged to consider:

- 4-year BScN programs (use OUAC form 101)
- Practical Nursing (RPN) programs through colleges, which also "bridge" to BScN (RN) programs afterward
- Applied Health Sciences programs at colleges like the Michener Institute

Tip for Personal Statement and Interview

Convey enthusiasm and commitment to nursing, and demonstrate a strong track record of community involvement and volunteerism.

Paying for a Nursing Program

Annual tuition for Ontario students ranges \$6,000-\$9,500. Remember to ask about scholarships and bursaries! Additional financial support information is available at www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student_financial_aid/scholarships.page

Where can I find more information and resources?

College of Nurses of Ontario Approved Nursing Programs

www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/approved-nursing-programs/

Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

rnao.ca

Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario

Note: You can learn about the college route to Practical Nursing here

www.rpnao.org



Application & Personal Statement Resources

- Effective Admission Letters (U of T Writing Centre): www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/admission-letters
- The Personal Statement: How to Get it Started (videos/exercises) www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/applying-professional-graduate-schools
- Purdue University Online Writing Lab: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01
- CTL's Graduate School Application and Personal Statement Calculator: ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/assignmentcal

The AA&CC can help!

Attend the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair (Early Fall), go to a *Applying to Professional & Graduate School* workshop, meet professionals through In the Field workplace visits, Extern Job Shadowing, or speak with a Career Strategist to learn how to get relevant experience!

Please note: While this tip sheet aims to ensure accuracy, requirements do change. Consider it a starting point for your further research. Visit individual nursing school websites for detailed, up-to-date information about admission requirements and application procedures.