

Pre-Nursing Handbook

Southern CT State University

Department of Nursing

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Definitions

Pre-Nursing at SCSU prepares students interested in pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. There are two types of pre-nursing students at SCSU: (1) those already admitted as Direct Admit students and (2) those intending to apply to the nursing major during their sophomore year of study. Students are not declared as nursing students until they have successfully completed pre-nursing requirements and been admitted to the nursing program either as a direct admit or through the nursing dual application process.

Definition of SCSU "Direct Admit" Student

A *direct admit* student is an individual admitted to the nursing program directly from high school. Direct Admit students receive a letter of admission from the Department Chairperson prior to the start of their studies at SCSU. Direct Admit students will not have to apply to the nursing program to begin the nursing curriculum within their junior year. To begin the nursing program, Direct Admit students will need to successfully complete all nursing prerequisite courses with a grade of C+ or higher and have a minimum 3.0 CUM GPA prior to taking nursing courses.

Definition of SCSU "Traditional Pre-Nursing" Student

A *pre-nursing* student is defined as an individual who is admitted to the university, has an interest in pursuing nursing as a major, meets pre-nursing eligibility requirements, but is not yet admitted to the 4 year nursing program at SCSU.

Definition of SCSU "Nursing" Student

A nursing student at SCSU is an individual who has either met the pre-nursing requirements as a direct admit pre-nursing student or has met the nursing application requirements, completed the application to the nursing department and has been formally accepted to the nursing program.

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Department of Nursing at SCSU Connecticut State University. SCSU's traditional nursing program offers a Bachelor of Science (BS) with a major in nursing. The nationally fully accredited program at SCSU is aimed at preparing professional practitioners of nursing. It offers students a program built upon a solid foundation in the sciences and expanded by a liberal arts perspective. The program includes nursing prerequisite courses, university Liberal Education Program (LEP) and writing intensive requirements, upper level courses in nursing theory, and clinical experience at various healthcare and health related agencies.

During the freshman and sophomore years, pre-nursing students will take nursing prerequisite courses along with LEP and writing intensive university requirements. Those applying to the nursing program under the dual admission track traditionally make an application to the nursing program within their sophomore year and if accepted into the program, begin the nursing curriculum in their junior year. The nursing curriculum begins in the fall semester each year and takes two years to complete full-time or three years to complete part-time.

The following pages of this packet will provide information of what to expect while declared a pre-nursing student at SCSU.

Advisement

Who: (1) Direct Admit students are advised by an assigned nursing faculty member and should contact the Nursing Department office for a listing of advisors assigned by the student's last name. (2) Traditional Pre-Nursing students are advised by a professional advisor for pre-nursing information and course registration. Upon entrance into the program, students are assigned a nursing faculty advisor and no longer see a professional advisor.

During the first semester of freshman year, all students have additional advisement support through their INQ course instructors.

Why: Returning students must meet with an advisor prior to registering for classes. Besides receiving a new PIN number required for registration (a registration hold is placed on every student's account to insure students meet with their intended major advisor prior to registering for classes, the PIN informs the system that this has happened). The pre-nursing advisor will help educate and direct students to helpful tools and resources; ensure that students understand nursing application requirements and where they stand compared to those accepted the previous year; discuss options; and help navigate the student through university processes.

Where: (1) Direct Admit students will meet at their faculty advisor's office for an individual appointment. (2) Traditional Pre-Nursing student advisement information is posted on the pre-nursing website (www.southernct.edu/prenursing) when ready. Group advisement session locations will vary and individual appointments will be within the Academic Advisement Center, currently within the Wintergreen Building.

When: Advisement typically begins the first week of October with spring registration occurring in November and the beginning of March with fall registration occurring in April, unless notified of earlier advisement. Traditional Pre-Nursing students should plan their advisement as soon as it becomes available to insure they are able to meet with the professional advisor prior to their first day of registration.

How: (1) Direct Admit students should contact their faculty advisor to learn how to go about scheduling an advisement appointment. (2) Traditional Pre-Nursing advisement information is posted on the pre-nursing website and updated after the first month of each semester. Students are responsible for checking the pre-nursing website for this information. Walk-in appointments are not permitted unless the advisor notifies students of the option; however, students are encouraged to email the advisor with questions at any point. If it is an urgent matter, the advisor will be sure an individual appointment is made.

What to Expect: (1) Direct Admit students should contact their faculty advisor to learn how to prepare for their advisement appointment. (2) All Traditional Pre-Nursing students are expected to show up for advisement prepared with the most current pre-nursing worksheet completed (the worksheet is located on the pre-nursing website). The worksheet should be completed in conjunction with their degree evaluation. Instructions on how to run a degree evaluation and an example of how to complete the worksheet are on the pre-nursing website. Students should also be familiar with the resources on the pre-nursing website and come prepared with questions.

Pre-Nursing Curriculum

Pre-nursing students spend the first two years completing nursing prerequisite courses, and as many LEP and writing intensive university requirements as possible. After the 1st semester, a typical semester will most likely include 3-4 nursing prerequisite courses, and 1 LEP requirement that is not listed as meeting a nursing prerequisite and/or writing intensive university requirement. Requirements are listed below with nursing prerequisites notated in bold.

LEP University Requirements (each requirement below = 1 course)

LEP Requirement	Course	Credit #
FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE Tier 1	1st semester freshmen are automatically registered INQ 101	3 credits
CRITICAL THINKING Tier 1	1st semester freshmen are automatically registered for a course in this requirement	3 credits
MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION Tier 1	200 level of a language	3 credits
QUANTITATIVE REASONING Tier 1	MAT 107 Elementary Statistics	3 credits
TECHNOLOGICAL FLUENCY Tier 1	PHY 103 Physics and Technology for Healthcare Professionals	3 credits
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION Tier 1	ENG 112 Writing Arguments	3 credits
AMERICAN EXPERIENCE Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits
CREATIVE DRIVE Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits
CULTURAL EXPRESSION Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits
GLOBAL AWARENESS Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits
MIND & BODY Tier 2	PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology	3 credits
NATURAL WORLD I: PHYSICAL REALM Tier 2	CHE 120 General Chemistry I	4 credits
NATURAL WORLD: II LIFE & ENV Tier 2	CHE 125 Principles and Applications of General, Inorganic, & Biochemistry	4 credits
SOCIAL STRUCTURE, CONFLICT & CONSENSUS Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits
TIME & PLACE Tier 2	See detailed degree evaluation for course selection	3 credits

Nursing Prerequisites NOT already listed above

COURSE	CREDIT #
BIO 200 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4 credits
BIO 201 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 credits
BIO 120 Microbiology	4 credits
MAT 108 Math for Natural Sciences (or one of MAT 112, 120, 122, 139, 150)	3 credits (or could be 4 credits depending on course selected)
PSY 219 Lifespan Development	3 credits

*Students in the fall 2017 or later catalog term will be exempt from one Tier 2 requirement that is not also a nursing prerequisite course.

**The university's Tier 3 requirement is to be completed within the nursing curriculum.

Free Elective Courses

Starting Fall 2017, students who graduate with a BSN from SCSU must satisfy a minimum of 120 credits. Some students who do not immediately place into the requirements listed above (such as math, English, or a language) will need to take fundamental courses first. Most of these course credits count toward elective credits.

Writing Intensive Courses

All students must complete 3 writing intensive courses before graduating from the university, unless a waiver was received due to transfer student policy, honors college, or an approved W-Course waiver. Students may find "W" courses within the requirements listed above, otherwise, they will select a course to take as a free elective course to satisfy this requirement. Students will know whether a course is a writing intensive course when they see a "W" next to a course section number (e.g. JST 200 04W) and when they see it listed under the Writing Intensive section of their degree evaluation. Instructions on how to search for these and other university requirements are on the pre-nursing website.

Time Frame of Completing Requirements

Although all requirements must be successfully completed by the time the student graduates, it is important to know that there are a couple of restrictions and recommendations to pay attention to.

Restrictions:

- 7 of the 11 nursing prerequisite courses (those listed in bold in the previous pages) must be successfully completed (grade of a C+ or higher) by the application deadline, which is February 1st of each year. This means students who plan to apply in the traditional time frame should plan to have at least 7 completed successfully by the end of the fall semester sophomore year if applying. It does not matter which of the pre-requisites students have—as long as they have 7 with a grade of C+ or higher.
- IF ACCEPTED: ALL 11 prerequisite courses (those listed in bold in the previous pages) must be successfully completed (grade of a C+ or higher) by the start of the nursing program. This means that students will continue

completing the remaining maximum 4 pre-reqs during the spring semester sophomore year while waiting to hear if they have been accepted. Some students choose to take 1 or 2 of their remaining prerequisites over the summer prior to entry. If a student gets accepted and does not satisfy the remaining pre-reqs with a C+ or higher, they will not be allowed to begin the program and will have to reapply to the program for the following year.

Recommended:

- In addition to completing all nursing prerequisite courses, the nursing department strongly *recommends* (does not require) that accepted nursing students do not start the nursing program with more than 4 outstanding non-nursing courses. These would include any LEP, writing intensive, and elective courses that were not completed within the first two years at the university. If a student begins the nursing program with more than 4 outstanding non-nursing courses, it will be recommended that the student take the courses during the summer or take an additional year to complete the nursing program.
- Due to the limited number of writing intensive courses within the nursing curriculum, it is recommended that students complete 2 of the 3 writing intensive courses before the program begins.

Advanced Placement / CLEP / Transfer Credits

Advanced Placement:

- Students who have taken AP exams while in high school must have the official College Board score report sent to Undergraduate Admissions.
- A list of acceptable exams, scores, and college credit earned can be located on SCSU's Undergraduate Admissions website, under Freshmen and Advanced Standing.
- Students who receive credit for a course that is listed as a nursing pre-req must score a 4 or 5 on the exam to satisfy the nursing pre-req requirement, even if SCSU's requirement is a score of a 3. For instance, if a student received credit for PSY 100 and only scored a 3 on the exam, the student will still need to register for PSY 100 and complete the course with a C+ or higher to meet the nursing requirement.
- AP scores are not calculated into CUM or Pre-req GPAs.

CLEP:

- Students who have taken CLEP exams must have the official College Board score report sent to the Registrar's Office.
- Students have the option to take a CLEP exam in place of a full semester of a course. The list of acceptable CLEP exams, scores, and course equivalencies can be found in the CLEP brochure on SCSU's registrar's website.
- Students who receive credit for a course that is listed as a nursing pre-req must score higher than a 51 on the exam to meet the nursing requirement.
- CLEP scores are not calculated into CUM or Pre-req GPAs.

Transfer Credits:

- Students who earned college credit prior to enrolling at SCSU must have their official transcript(s) sent to Undergraduate Admissions.
- Students who plan to earn college credits at a different institution—while an active matriculated student at SCSU—must first complete an undergraduate transfer credit approval form through SCSU's Registrar's website under the "Transfer Credits" page.
- Students who earn college credit at a different institution while an active matriculated student at SCSU must have their official transcript(s) with course grades sent to the Registrar's Office. Students are not allowed to receive

duplicate credit for a course, so a transfer credit approval form may be denied. Please reach out to your advisor for more information, as too many repeated nursing prereqs are not permitted.

- A list of pre-nursing requirement equivalencies from the CT Community Colleges is listed on the pre-nursing website (www.southernct.edu/prenursing).
- Although grades and GPAs from other institutions do not transfer to SCSU, the nursing department will include them into the CUM and Pre-req GPA calculations at the time of the nursing application.

GPAs / Grades / Repeating Courses

CUM GPA:

- As part of the nursing application, the department will calculate a Cumulative GPA to include all regionally accredited college GPAs. This does not exclude students who earned college credit in high school. The calculator that is used is listed on the pre-nursing website (www.southernct.edu/prenursing) along with instructions.
- Pre-reqs completed through an AP exam or CLEP exam are not included in the CUM GPA.
- Original and repeated course grades are calculated into the CUM GPA unless the first grade was replaced by the second grade in the institution's overall GPA.
- Although a 3.0 is the minimum CUM GPA required to be considered for the program, the average CUM GPA of those accepted in recent history has been above a 3.5.
- Students who do not have a 3.0 CUM GPA (or for transfer students - who fall below a 3.0 Southern GPA) with 24+ credits will no longer be advised to apply to the nursing major. The minimum GPA to apply to the program is a 3.0. It would be in the student's best interest to begin receiving information and taking requirements toward another option. Students would be considered undeclared unless they declared another major.

Prerequisite GPA:

- As part of the nursing application, the department will calculate a GPA for the prerequisite courses that were completed with a C+ or higher.
- If a pre-req was repeated, only the higher grade will get calculated into the pre-req GPA.
- The CUM GPA calculator posted on the pre-nursing website can be used by students to calculate their pre-req GPA. Instructions on how to do so are included in the CUM calculator instructions on the pre-nursing website.
- Pre-reqs completed through an AP exam or CLEP exam are not included in the pre-req GPA.
- The average pre-req GPA of those accepted in recent history has been at or above a 3.5.

Grades:

- While declared a pre-nursing or nursing student, nursing pre-reqs and nursing courses are the only courses restricted to a grade of a C+ or higher.
- The passing grade for all other university requirements is a D-, although fundamental courses may require a higher grade to proceed to the next level.
- It is important to understand how letter grades equate to number points. A grade of a C+ is equal to a 2.3; a B is equal to a 3.0; a B+ is equal to a 3.3; an A- is equal to a 3.7; and an A/A+ is equal to a 4.0.
- A GPA calculator is located on the Registrar's Office website. When a student knows his/her CUM GPA or pre-req GPA, he/she can enter the GPA credits/hours, current GPA, and desired GPA to get a sense of what grades and credit hours are necessary to reach that desired GPA.

Repeating Courses:

- Students who need or would like to repeat a course may do so. It is recommended that the student take advantage of the grade replacement option through SCSU's Registrar's Office. The course would need to be retaken at SCSU for this option; otherwise, if a student repeats a course without grade replacing or does it at a different institution, both grades will get calculated into the CUM GPA.
- Repeated pre-reqs are notated when a student applies to the nursing program.
- If a student repeats a pre-req by choice and not because he/she did not meet the minimum grade requirement, the student would not get penalized.
- Repeated courses impact a qualified applicant's admission decision. Applicants who have more than 2 repeats for nursing prerequisite courses with grades less than a C+ are NOT eligible to apply to the nursing program (even if the repeated grades were A's). In order to remain competitive throughout the application process, it is highly recommended and encouraged that students are successful in their first attempt at completing prerequisites and refrain from repeating prerequisites.

Academic Warning and Probation

Students who are on academic warning or probation should not proceed as a pre-nursing student. Students should submit the electronic "selection of degree" form located on the Registrar's website to switch to "undeclared," to be advised by the FYE office in the Student Success Center if under 60 credits or the Academic Advisement Department for those with 60+ completed credits.

Switching into Pre-nursing

Students already enrolled at SCSU who would like to switch into pre-nursing must submit a "selection of degree" form located on the Registrar's website. Those wishing to switch into the pre-nursing advisement track who do not hold a 3.0 CUM GPA will not be approved to switch into pre-nursing at that time. However, any student who meets the minimum nursing application eligibility requirements are allowed to apply to the nursing program even if they are not in the system as pre-nursing students. Nursing application requirements can be found under the Bachelor of Science in Nursing page of: www.southernct.edu/nursing/undergraduateprograms

Switching out of Pre-nursing

Students switching out of pre-nursing and into a different major should:

- Contact the new department to learn more about the program and potential requirements and/or application information.
- Get assigned an advisor through the new department.
- Submit a "selection of degree" form located on the Registrar's website.
- Complete any additional paperwork the new department requires.

Leave of Absence / Withdrawing from the University

Students planning on taking a leave of absence or withdrawing from the university should notify the pre-nursing advisor and fill out the appropriate form located on the Registrar's website under "forms."

Alternate Plan Options

All pre-nursing students are advised to have an alternate plan in the event they do not get accepted to the nursing program at Southern. The pre-nursing website has a plethora of information and tools available to students to assist in the process.

Students are encouraged to begin exploring different majors the first semester freshman year. FOCUS is an online career exploration tool available to SCSU students. It includes self-awareness and interest assessments, an extensive list of occupations with information on average salary, required education, programs of study for that occupation and much more. Students are also encouraged to attend the on-campus Majors Expo, which occurs every fall semester.

Those who become eligible to apply to the program and do not get accepted may consider the following options:

- Competitive applicants may wish to reapply the following year and in the meantime, they may decide to:
 - take a leave of absence
 - drop to part-time study for one or two semesters
 - study abroad
 - work on courses for a minor that will transfer to a major if they do not get accepted the second time
- Switch majors and graduate in a different program.
- Apply to other nursing programs (CT League for Nursing has a guide of all nursing programs in the state of CT. See Resources at the end of this handbook for website.).
- A different route to the BSN at SCSU
 - The RN-BS in Nursing program is for students who receive an Associate of Science degree in Nursing and are licensed in CT as a Registered Nurse (RN). A dual admission agreement exists between the CT Community College Nursing programs and SCSU's Nursing program. For more information, please visit the [RN-BSN webpage](#).
 - The ACE program is for students who already hold a Bachelor degree in a major outside of nursing who want to switch careers and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. For more information, please visit the [Accelerated Career Entry Program \(ACE\) webpage](#).

Traditional Pre-Nursing Eligibility

Students interested in applying to the traditional 4 year nursing program are identified as pre-nursing students for clear advisement purposes, as they prepare to apply to the major. Those who fail to meet the minimum nursing application requirements no longer qualify for pre-nursing advisement. Students are well prepared with resources, information and options to explore, prior to the end of their first 24 credits. The information below provides clarification on what will occur if a student no longer qualifies for pre-nursing advisement.

- ❓ Pre-nursing students who do not maintain a minimum 2.0 CUM SCSU GPA at any point will:
 - Receive notification from the School of Health and Human Services Dean's Office that their major will be changed to *undeclared*. This change is to ensure proper advisement is provided to assist students back to Satisfactory Academic Progress.

- ❓ Pre-nursing students who do not maintain a minimum 3.0 CUM GPA after completing a minimum of 24 college credits will:
 - Be invited to schedule an advisement appointment during intersessions to discuss alternative options, next steps, and the possibility of adjusting their course schedules prior to each semester.
 - Receive notification from the School of Health and Human Services Dean's Office about being switched to *undeclared* (for those students who are still identified as pre-nursing students) before advisement begins for the following semester.

- ❓ If a student becomes eligible to apply to the nursing program after they have moved out of the pre-nursing advisement track, they may apply to the program with the understanding that it is at their discretion. The pre-nursing component of the nursing curriculum is intended to be completed within 2 years full-time. Any additional time would be spent on retaking courses and/or taking courses that do not apply to the nursing program requirements.

- ❓ If at any point a student has received 3 or more grades lower than a C+ in any of the 11 nursing prerequisite courses, even if repeated for a grade of an A, the student is ineligible to apply to the traditional BSN program (or the ACE BSN program at Southern) and will no longer be eligible for pre-nursing advisement.

- ❓ Students are eligible to switch back into pre-nursing advisement if their CUM SCSU GPA reaches a 3.3. *Please note that there is still no guarantee of acceptance to the nursing program. The average GPA for those who have recently been admitted to the traditional BSN program has been higher than a 3.3.

- ❓ Transfer students are responsible for calculating their own CUM GPA to know their true CUM GPA and application eligibility status. *Pre-nursing eligibility requirements also apply to transfer students.

Nursing Application Information

General Information:

- The nursing application is an annual application that opens November 1st and closes February 1st.
- A link to the application is posted on the BSN website beginning November 1st. Students may submit the application at any point before the deadline; but may not submit incomplete applications. The application is an online application, with the ability to start the application and save it so that students can return back to it at a later time.
- The student is able to monitor whether or not there are any missing documents or items on their application and will be notified when the application has been reviewed.
- There is no expiration on prerequisite courses.
- There is no expiration on the TEAS exam; however, the score must be from the current version of the exam, currently ATI TEAS 6th Ed. (TEAS V scores will not be accepted.)
- Students from all majors may apply as long as they have met the minimum eligibility requirements listed below.
- SCSU students must submit unofficial transcripts, except for high school transcripts, along with their application
- All grades will be calculated and checked after February 1st.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements to be met by February 1st:

- A minimum grade of a C+ in at least 7 of the 11 nursing prerequisite courses
- A minimum CUM GPA of a 3.0
- No more than 2 prerequisite nursing courses with grades less than C+
- Submitted score for ATI TEAS 6th Ed.

BSN Nursing Prerequisites: All prerequisites must be completed with a C+ or greater before the beginning of your first semester in the nursing program. There is no exception.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| ● BIO200 | ● CHE125 | ● PHY103 |
| ● BIO201 | ● ENG112 | ● PSY100 |
| ● BIO120 | ● MAT107 | ● PSY219 |
| ● CHE120 | ● MAT108 | |

Application Requirements to be Submitted and/or Processed by February 1st:

- Completed application, submitted online.
- TEAS exam score, submitted online in the nursing application.
- All college transcripts, CLEP scores, AP scores, etc. must be processed by the university, submitted to the Admissions House.
- You may be asked to provide the Nursing Department with copies of unofficial transcripts and/or AP scores as part of your application.

Acceptance:

- GPA, evaluation of overall academic record (i.e. number of course withdrawals, prerequisite course wifailures (grades under a C+), and academic success at other colleges and universities), and entry admission testing (TEAS) are used in evaluating students for acceptance into the nursing program. Preference is given to those candidates who, in the judgment of Department of Nursing admissions members, present through academic and personal qualifications the greatest potential for program success.

- 60-80 applicants will be accepted for the Fall 2019 cohort. Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the number of applicants other than Direct Admit students accepted each year will range from 40-50 based upon program capacity.
- There is no waitlist

Notification(s):

- Applicants receive notification of acceptance, denial, missing items from their application, as well as not having met the minimum requirements for review.
- Acceptance/Denial/Minimum Requirement notification is delivered through paper mail to the address listed on the student's nursing application.
- Missing requirements and/or other correspondence from the Nursing Department are through SCSU's primary form of communication via your Southern email account—all students are responsible for responding to correspondences from the Nursing Department.
- Students are typically notified by Mid-March but no later than April 1st.

Requirements After Acceptance:

- Students who are accepted will be required to sign out a nursing information packet that MUST be read.
- Students are required to complete health requirements, med-math test(s), orientation, and other pertinent information/requirements, which are highlighted in the information packet.
- Med-Math testing: Upon being offered acceptance, students must pass with 100% an on-campus proctored med-math test over the summer. Students are required to purchase modules through ATI, the source used for the TEAS test, as preparation materials for the med-math test. Students are given three opportunities to pass 100%. (A score of 100% is required before beginning the program.)

TEAS EXAM INFORMATION

General Information:

- The “Test of Essential Academic Skills” (TEAS) Version VI was released August 31st, 2016 and will be the required nursing entrance exam used as part of the nursing application.
- There is no minimum acceptable score for SCSU applicants. The department asks students to do their personal best. The average score of those accepted to the program each year changes however, the averages have ranged from low 70’s to low 80’s.
- SCSU only accepts one score per application cycle (Nov-Feb each year). If two scores are submitted, SCSU will only accept the 1st score.
- SCSU’s nursing department will post the designated exam dates on November 1st within the application. ATI may post these dates for registration prior to November 1st. Tests are not taken on campus. Location for this test is designated by ATI.
- Many students begin studying for the exam the summer before the fall application and take the exam before, during, and/or after the fall semester making sure a score is submitted to and received by the SCSU Department of Nursing by February 1st deadline.
- SCSU will not accept TEAS V scores from previous years.
- ATI will automatically submit scores to SCSU if the exam is taken during the dates designated for SCSU students between November and February of each year.

Information about taking the TEAS:

- “TEAS measures basic essential skills in the academic content areas of reading, mathematics, science, and English and language usage. The objectives assessed on the TEAS exam are those which nurse educators deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry-level academic readiness of nursing program applicants.”
- ATI Testing has the following prep items available for purchase: TEAS Study Package, TEAS Pre-Test Study Manual, TEAS Online Practice Assessments, TEAS Transcripts, and Learning Strategies: Your Guide to Classroom and Test-Taking Success.
- The TEAS test is a maximum of 3.5 hours long; 170 four-option multiple-choice questions; calculators may not be used; results are available 48 hours after completion of test.
- Please contact [ATI Testing \(www.atitesting.com\)](http://www.atitesting.com) for all information and inquiries about the exam (how do I register, what does it cover, where is it located, how do I study, etc.).
- Exams may be taken out-of-state, but if the student wishes to submit the score, they would need to notify ATI to do so.
- Students may register for an exam that is not designated for SCSU students, but if the student wishes to submit the score, they would need to notify ATI to do so.

NURSING CURRICULUM

Full-Time Plan of Study for Traditional BSN

Coursework to be completed once accepted into the program:

Fall Semester		
NUR 340	Theoretical Foundation of Professional Nursing	3 credits
NUR 341	Health Assessment (Lab included)	3 credits
NUR 342	Evidence-Based Nursing Interventions (Lab included)	3 credits
NUR 343	Integrated Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I	3 credits
NUR 344	Gerontological Nursing (Clinical included)	2 credits
	TOTAL CREDITS	14 credits
Spring Semester		
NUR 350	Therapeutic Nutrition	2 credits
NUR 351	Nursing Research	2 credits
NUR 352	Adult Health (Clinical included)	4 credits
NUR 353	Integrated Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II	3 credits
NUR 354	Mental Health Nursing (Clinical included)	3 credits
	TOTAL CREDITS	14 credits
Fall Semester		
NUR 430	The Childbearing Family (Clinical included)	3 credits
NUR 431	The Childrearing Family (Clinical Included)	3 credits
NUR 432	Adult Responses to Complex Stressors (Clinical included)	4 credits
NUR 433	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice with Families Across the Lifespan	3 credits
Nursing Elective	Elective	1 credit
	TOTAL CREDITS	14 credits
Spring Semester		
NUR 442	Community Health Nursing (Clinical included)	3 credits
NUR 443	Nursing Capstone (Clinical included)	4 credits
NUR 444	Leadership, Management & Healthcare Issues in Nursing	3 credits
Nursing Elective	Elective	1 credit
	TOTAL CREDITS	11 credits

Part-Time Plan of Study for Traditional BSN

Year One	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
	NUR 340—Nursing Theory	NUR—350 Nutrition
	NUR 343—Pathopharmacology I	NUR 351—Research
		NUR 353—Pathopharmacology II
Year Two	NUR 341—Health Assessment (Lab)	NUR 352—Adult Health (Clinical)
	NUR 342—Nursing Interventions (Lab)	NUR 354—Mental Health (Clinical)
	NUR 344—Gerontology (Clinical)	
Year Three	NUR 430—Childbearing (Clinical)	NUR 443—Capstone (Clinical)
	NUR 431—Childrearing (Clinical)	NUR 444—Leadership
	NUR 432—Adult Health (Clinical)	NUR 442—Community Health (Clinical)
	NUR 433—Family	Nursing Elective
	Nursing Elective	

Nursing Program Estimated Costs

The annual costs of attending Southern is moderate in comparison to other private and public universities in Connecticut. For current tuition and fees for in-state and out-of-state please refer to the Student Accounts Office page on SCSU's website: <https://www2.southernct.edu/studentaccounts/>

There are additional costs for the nursing program, which are paid out of pocket and not included in the fees and tuition associated with those found on the Bursar's Office page. Nursing students are required to purchase the following items when offered acceptance into the program:

Prior to entry in the fall:

- 1.) Uniforms
- 2.) Clinical equipment (shoes, stethoscope, etc.)
- 3.) Background check(s) & Fingerprinting
- 4.) CPR class
- 5.) Health Document Manager
- 6.) Health Requirements (physical, TB testing, flu shots, etc.)
- 7.) On-line prep course for mandatory summer math test

During the program:

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| 1.) Student Response Systems | 6.) Program Fee |
| 2.) NSNA dues (optional) | 7.) Nursing Pin (optional) |
| 3.) NAHN dues (optional) | 8.) Parking/gas fees for clinical travel |
| 4.) HESI packet exams (6-8 exams or more) | 9.) Books (for each semester) (e-books, renting, etc.) (\$500+) |
| 5.) Nursing lab pack | |

After Graduation:

- 1.) NCLEX review course (recommended)
- 2.) NCLEX licensure exam
- 3.) Annual licensure fee

Prices for all the above items vary annually but students must be aware of the expected financial requirements in advance to better prepare themselves for the costs associated with being a nursing student at Southern CT State University.

General Clinical Information

Clinical practice experiences in healthcare and other agencies are a required component of program completion and graduation with a pre-licensure credential or baccalaureate nursing degree. Students must meet all standards and requirements necessary to complete required clinical placements. Failure to do so will result in an inability to complete the program.

Student learning experiences may be scheduled any time between 7am and 11pm during weekdays and/or on weekends.

Southern CT State University is considered home base for clinical placements. Clinical site placements are often difficult for the department to obtain due to the competitiveness of other programs in other areas. Students may be required to travel over an hour from campus to attend their clinical sites. The Department of Nursing does its very best to obtain placements as close to campus as possible.

Clinical sites vary each semester based on availability. Some of the clinical sites that have been utilized in recent years are as follows:

- Yale New Haven Hospital (York Street Campus) & Yale New Haven Hospital (St. Raphael's Campus)
- MidState Hospital
- Bridgeport Hospital
- St. Mary's Hospital
- Bristol Hospital
- Manchester Memorial Hospital
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Hospital for Special Care
- St. Francis Hospital
- Griffin Hospital
- Mary Wade Home, Masonicare, Madison House, The Carolton, etc.
- Public Schools in: New Haven, Meriden, Milford, West Haven, & Old Saybrook, etc.
- Visiting Nurse locations in Stratford, New Haven, Shelton, etc.

Each clinical site may have different health requirements (i.e. additional background checks, specific type of TB testing, drug testing, yearly physical, etc.), which may come as additional costs to the student. Clinical sites also have varied parking costs and/or restrictions for students.

Nursing Student Transportation:

Students are responsible for their own individual transportation to and from all clinical agencies. While special accommodations might be made for students with obligations such as military, religion, childcare, etc. it is not always possible to accommodate students with transportation issues. Students are advised to carpool with others in their clinical group if necessary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the application period for the traditional BSN program?

Applications become available on the nursing website November 1st of each academic year and are due on February 1st of each academic year.

How many years is the program?

The program is 2 years full-time from when you begin. In the traditional sense, sophomores apply to the program and complete the program between the junior and senior year. There is also a part-time option for the traditional program, which spans over 3 years.

How competitive is the program?

Each year we receive anywhere from 150-180 applications and the program accepts between 60-80 students.

As a freshman pre-nursing student, who is my advisor?

During your 1st year (1) Direct Admit students will be advised by a nursing faculty member and (2) Traditional Pre-Nursing students will work in conjunction with their INQ instructor and a professional advisor assigned to assist pre-nursing students.

I understand that every semester I need to get a new PIN Number in order to register for the following semester's classes. Where and how do I get that?

Advisement for the following semester takes place in late October, early November for Spring registration and in late March, early April for Fall registration. Information will be posted on the pre-nursing website. You will receive your pin after advisement has taken place through group or individual appointments. Slots fill up very quickly so please make sure you make an appointment well in advance. PIN numbers change every semester because they are there to notify the system that you have met with an advisor each semester.

When can I register for the next semester classes?

The registration dates are posted in your Banner Web under Student Services and Registration. Click on "Check My Registration Status."

In the summer may I take courses at other schools?

Yes, you need to obtain from the registrar's website a Credit Transfer Approval form, complete the form, and submit it to the registrar. If the request is denied, please see your advisor for more information.

I cannot get into all the classes that I want? What I should do?

You should continue checking online for course additions and student drops. Also, during the add/drop period students are often able to get into a class they need. Some students will take required classes during the summer.

Why do I have to take university / LEP requirements, in addition to my nursing pre-requisites?

The nursing program at SCSU educates students not only in their field but enables individuals to expand oneself by a liberal arts perspective.

Do I have to maintain a certain GPA to continue taking nursing pre-requisites?

No, most prerequisite courses are also general university requirements; however, at the end of your freshmen year if you do not have a minimum CUM GPA of 3.0 you will no longer be advised toward applying to the nursing program. Please keep in mind that if your CUM GPA is under a 2.0, you are at risk of being dismissed from the university and should not be taking such rigorous courses until your status is in good standing.

When will I be considered a Nursing student?

You will be considered a Nursing student when you have been accepted into the Nursing program. You are eligible to make application to the SCSU nursing department once you have completed 7 of your 11 nursing pre-requisites, taken the TEAS test, and have an overall GPA of 3.0 or greater. This usually occurs during your sophomore year. If accepted into the upper level program, you would need to complete any remaining pre-requisites prior to beginning the nursing courses.

What is the TEAS test?

The TEAS test is a multiple-choice exam that measures entry-level skills and abilities of nursing program applicants. It is essentially a national entrance exam into nursing school. More information can be found on the pre-nursing website and ATItesting.com.

What is the minimum score for the TEAS test that SCSU requires?

Currently, there is no minimum score that we require. The Department of Nursing only accepts one score with your nursing application. The average score for those students who were recently accepted into the program is a 77. Over the course of the previous years, the average score for those accepted into the program has ranged from mid 70's to low 80's.

Resources

Pre-nursing website: www.southernct.edu/prenursing

- Advising information
- Pre-nursing handbook
- GPA calculators
- TEAS Info
- CT Community College Course Equivalencies
- Alternate plan information and tools
- And MORE!

Nursing website: www.southernct.edu/nursing

- BSN Programs
- Application Information
- Application
- Program Information

Registrar's website: www.southernct.edu/registrar

- Calendar for things like when to register or to withdraw from a class
- Class Schedule Search (advance search for courses)
- Grade Replacement Policy
- GPA Calculator to determine how to reach desired GPA
- CLEP exam brochure
- Forms such as:
 - Transfer credit approval
 - Selection of Major
 - Leave of Absence
 - Irregular Schedule
 - Withdrawal

SCSU website: www.southernct.edu

If you can't find what you are looking for, try the search bar.

Southern Success Center: www.southernct.edu/asc/index.html

- Tutoring
- Coaching
- Workshops (e.g. time management and study skill workshop)
- Assists with questions
- Assists with GPA calculations
- Lounge for transfer students

What-If Degree Evaluation: Explore requirements and how your completed courses apply to alternative majors. Instructions are on the pre-nursing website.

Undergraduate Catalog: <http://catalog.southernct.edu/undergraduate/>
Explore alternative majors and requirements as well as university information.

CT League for Nursing Guide: www.ctnursingguide.com
A guide for nursing education will show all programs within CT.

Unofficial SCSU Transcript: Know your academic history. Your unofficial transcript can be located through the MySCSU Banner Web, under Student Services and Records.