



# Find Your Future

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
SCHOOL OF NURSING



**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

TRADITIONAL BSN • ACCELERATED BSN • BSN@HOME



# At the University of Wisconsin–Madison, nurses



## BY THE NUMBERS

**1,000+**  
Students

**10,000+**  
Graduates

**74**  
Faculty members

**25**  
Average class size

For nearly a century, the UW–Madison School of Nursing has educated and inspired the most innovative professionals in the field of nursing. We develop critical thinkers and leaders for the profession and for society. We make discoveries, enhance systems, and improve health through research, education, and practice.

The school is the preeminent nursing research institution in Wisconsin and a fundamental part of the state's healthcare system. We're the only Academic Health Center in Wisconsin, collaborating across disciplines with the School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Pharmacy, and UW Hospitals and Clinics.

Our students learn the concepts and skills necessary to thrive in an evolving field and apply them through hands-on clinical experiences. We prepare students for successful and rewarding careers across all clinical and community practice settings. You will find our graduates in all corners of the health system, from the exam room to the board room. They also organize disaster relief efforts and serve in the military. They educate their peers, patients, and future nurses, and they participate in groundbreaking research that transforms healthcare, improves wellbeing, and advances nursing practice.

## Our Home: Signe Skott Cooper Hall

At UW–Madison, the future of nursing has already arrived. Signe Skott Cooper Hall, opened in 2014, is the School of Nursing's \$53 million, state-of-the-art facility. Our spaces immerse students into the field of nursing like never before—with high-fidelity clinical simulation labs; interactive, technology-enhanced classrooms; spacious research suites; museum-quality exhibits; exercise and meditation rooms for self-care; and individual and group study spots. Everything a future nurse needs to succeed is all under one roof.





lead.



## Why Nursing? One Profession—Vast Opportunity

Nursing is a challenging, secure, and rewarding field that offers tremendous variety and growth opportunity. Our graduates work in all clinical and community practice areas—everywhere from the hospital ICU to the elementary school health office—and in urban and rural settings. Nursing is also consistently ranked as the profession with the highest standards for honesty and ethics. As a nurse, you can make a real difference for patients, families, and communities.

Nursing is a smart career choice. With changing demographics and an increasing need for healthcare, the demand for qualified nurses is greater than ever. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nursing is among the top occupations in projected job growth by 2024, and nursing school graduates are more than twice as likely to have job offers at the time of graduation compared to those in other fields. Half of UW–Madison nursing students secure a full-time job offer before they graduate, and 95 percent report full employment within six months of graduating.

Many of our graduates also choose to advance their careers with further education, including our PhD program that prepares students to be nursing researchers and our DNP program that prepares nurses for advanced practice, leadership, and more.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The School of Nursing fosters an academic environment that welcomes diversity in students, faculty, staff, and the curriculum. The school embraces diversity defined as the intersections of various identities, including, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, nationality, religion, age, and physical characteristics. The School of Nursing educates nursing students about health equity in our local, regional, national, and global communities. Diversity initiatives are implemented through community outreach, scholarship, teaching, and research efforts in health equity. Efforts include infusion of diversity and inclusivity in curricula, social and educational events, and resources and services for students.

# Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing



## Future Nursing Leaders

The Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is a two-year curriculum. Students can apply to the School of Nursing after they are admitted to UW–Madison and complete all general education and pre-nursing requirements. We also welcome transfer applications from students who have completed all of our general education and nursing prerequisites at another institution.

As a BSN student, you will gain conceptual knowledge and apply it through hands-on experiences in simulation labs and real-world care settings. All along the way, you'll be guided by world-class faculty and clinical experts. When you graduate, you will be prepared to think critically and lead in whatever nursing role you pursue.

Students who successfully complete the program are able to apply for the RN license and take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX). Our students leave prepared and confident for what's next: 93 percent of UW–Madison graduates pass the licensure exam on their first attempt.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Timeframe**

**2 years**

in nursing program

**Credits**

**53 in nursing**

124 required for graduation

**Students**

**300+**

**Clinical hours**

**720**

**Student organizations**

**13**

**Admission rate**

**45%**

five-year average

**Licensure exam pass rate**

**93%**

first attempt

## Concept-Based Curriculum

In a rapidly changing world—with ever-evolving healthcare knowledge, systems, and practices—memorizing facts and procedures will only take you so far. That is why the School of Nursing has adopted a conceptual approach to learning that helps students to build foundational knowledge that can be universally applied across practices, cultures, technologies, and professional settings.

All of the concepts taught in the curriculum stem from five core concepts: professional nursing leadership; healthcare context and systems; health and illness, scholarship for evidence-based practice; and person, family, community, and systems-centered care. Students are challenged to put these concepts and skills to practice through simulations, labs, and clinical rotations in real-world care settings. By combining conceptual knowledge with hands-on experiences, our students leave UW–Madison with the skills and versatility to tackle any real-life situation. We prepare students to lead the future of healthcare and to improve health for all.



## FIVE CORE CONCEPTS







## Enhanced Academic Opportunities

Nursing students earn much more than a degree at UW–Madison. Through enhanced learning opportunities, you can pursue a variety of academic interests, train alongside leading experts, and get a head start on your next academic chapter.

- **Experiential learning:** Our coursework puts theoretical concepts and skills to practice. Many classes employ hands-on simulation labs and care settings to help you develop clinical judgment and hone skills in a realistic clinical environment.
- **Clinical placement:** Clinical experience is core to the curriculum, and you'll spend more than 100 hours per semester in real-world care settings (e.g., clinics, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation centers, school districts, etc.) learning from experienced healthcare practitioners. Clinical placements are identified and arranged to expose you to a wide range of practice areas.
- **Learning communities:** As a first-year student, you can choose to enroll in a First-Year Interest Group (FIG). Students and their FIG peers enroll in the same small-sized classes and explore their mutual academic interests together. Themes include global health, child development, contemporary healers, gender and women's studies, and culturally congruent care.
- **Independent study:** If you have an area of particular interest, you'll have the flexibility to craft your own course and earn independent study credits. Students work alongside a faculty mentor to tailor and complete the coursework.
- **Academic certificates:** In addition to your major, you can earn an academic certificate (sometimes known as a "minor"). The 50-plus certificates span many specific interests—from global health, to gender and women's studies, to Afro-American studies.
- **Honors program:** Some students have the opportunity to conduct research alongside experienced scientists on our faculty. Students in the honors program are matched with a faculty mentor, who provides guidance about the research process and shares available resources. Honor students enroll in a specialized seminar and conduct a senior thesis. Through this program, honors students develop strong professional connections along with significant research experience.
- **Bridge to MPH and PhD:** Graduate education enables students to pursue academic interests at a higher level and begin progress toward specific career goals. Undergraduate nursing students who wish to earn a master's degree in public health can earn early admission into the MPH program. These students take graduate-level courses while also completing their BSN requirements and can complete both a BSN and a master's degree in public health within five years. Also, the school's Early Entry PhD Option offers students in-depth research experience (in tandem with the Honors Program) and advanced coursework under faculty supervision. Students who are accepted to the program are granted direct enrollment into the School of Nursing's PhD program.





*“Ultimately, I want to be a nurse so that I can create a lasting difference in healthcare, beyond just our day-to-day experiences, and really, delving into nursing research, and answering some bigger questions that we have about healthcare and nursing.”*

Natalie Kustner, BSN '18







## Experiences Beyond the Books

At UW–Madison, learning is encouraged inside and outside of the classroom. Involvement takes many forms on campus—and can take you around the world.

**Immersion opportunities:** The School of Nursing offers several immersion opportunities, including study-abroad options, to provide students with experiences that enrich their education and challenge their perspectives. In the summer between the first and second year of nursing study, students can gain real-world experience and earn academic credit by enrolling in one of the school's community-based immersion programs that offer an opportunity to study and address the unique healthcare challenges of specific populations in Wisconsin or overseas. Typical opportunities include:

- **Malawi or Thailand:**  
a three-week clinical experience that covers topics such as epidemiology, environmental health, disease prevention and management, and population-centered nursing.
- **Northern Wisconsin:**  
a three-week clinical experience that covers rural health systems and issues of access to healthcare in remote communities.
- **Dublin, Ireland:**  
a two- to four-week research program at University College Dublin's nursing school that covers evidence-based practice and the nursing research process.



**Student organizations:** UW–Madison is home to more than 1,000 registered student organizations, which help students pursue their interests and form social networks. There are more than a dozen healthcare-focused associations and groups on campus, including the Aspiring Nurses Association, the Multicultural Student Nursing Association, and the Global Health Interest Group.





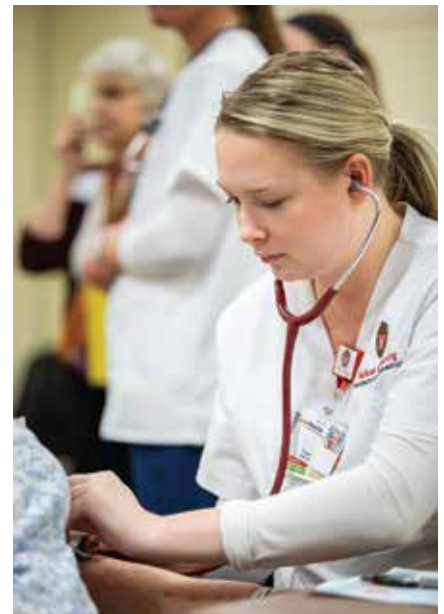


## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Admission is based on a thorough and holistic review of each application. Holistic review considers applicants' academic preparation and performance, leadership, co-curricular activities and service, healthcare experience and professional goals, diversity in experience and background, and the quality of the personal statements. We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, as well as leadership, intellectual curiosity, resilience, cultural competency, and enthusiasm for nursing demonstrated through their online application and on-campus interview. Admission is offered to students who present the strongest overall applications and who are anticipated to contribute to the university and nursing profession. Admission takes place once a year for fall enrollment.

Typically, first-year undergraduate students are admitted to UW–Madison as pre-nursing students and apply to the Traditional BSN program to officially start the two-year nursing sequence after completing the designated prerequisite and general education requirements. Transfer students are also welcome to apply to the Traditional BSN program after completing the same designated prerequisite and general education requirements at another institution. Students transferring to UW–Madison must also apply for admission to the university through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment ([www.admissions.wisc.edu](https://www.admissions.wisc.edu)).

To prepare for the admission application, students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources available to them. This includes reviewing our website for the most current information about the admission process, meeting with our School of Nursing advisors, participating in group advising, and utilizing their campus writing center.





*"The Accelerated BSN program is intense, yet challenging, intellectually stimulating, and enriching. I feel like I have learned and grown so much from when I began. I truly feel supported by faculty and staff."*

Aniqueka Scott, BSN '19





# Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing

## A Fast Track to a Nursing Career

The Accelerated BSN program runs year-long and through traditional academic breaks to prepare for students to sit for licensing exams in just 12 months. Individuals who are finishing a degree or already hold a degree in a different field and who have satisfied all program prerequisites are eligible to apply.

As a student, you will gain concept-based knowledge and apply it through hands-on experiences in simulation labs and real-world care settings. All along the way, you'll be guided by world-class faculty and clinical experts. When you graduate, you will be prepared to think critically and lead in whatever nursing role you pursue.

Students who successfully complete the program are able to apply for the RN license and take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX).

## Curriculum

Although courses and clinical rotations are organized differently, the Accelerated BSN program follows the same concept-based curriculum as the Traditional BSN program and uses the same clinical placement methodology to ensure that students are exposed to a wide range of practice areas.

## Clinical Placement

Our coursework puts theoretical concepts and skills to practice. Many classes employ hands-on simulation labs and care settings to help you develop clinical judgment and put your textbook knowledge to the test. Clinical experience is core to the curriculum, and you'll spend significant time at real-world care settings (e.g., clinics, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, school districts) learning from specially trained professionals.

## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Admission is based on a thorough and holistic review of each application. Holistic review considers applicants' academic preparation and performance, leadership, co-curricular activities and service, healthcare experience and professional goals, diversity in experience and background, and the quality of the personal statements. We seek to admit students who demonstrate strong academic ability, as well as leadership, intellectual curiosity, resilience, cultural competency, and enthusiasm for nursing demonstrated through their online application and on-campus interview. Admission is offered to students who present the strongest overall applications and who are anticipated to contribute to the university and nursing profession. Admission takes place once a year for May enrollment.

Applicants must complete their first bachelor's degree by the start of the Accelerated BSN program. Applicants must also complete the designated prerequisite and general education requirements according to specific deadlines as indicated on our website. To prepare for the admission application, applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the resources available to them. This includes reviewing our website for the most current information about the admission process and meeting with our School of Nursing advisors.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**Timeframe**

**1 year**

with prior bachelor's degree

**Credits**

**49**

**Students**

**40**

**Clinical hours**

**720**

**Admission rate**

**50%**

two-year average

# BSN@Home: RN to BSN Online Program



## BY THE NUMBERS

**Timeframe**

**2 years**

Minimum

**Credits**

**27**

in BSN@Home  
124 required for graduation

**Students**

**60+**

**Admission rate**

**85%**

five-year average

### A Doorway to New Opportunities

If you're a registered nurse with a diploma or an associate's degree in nursing, you can earn a bachelor's degree in less than two years.

The BSN@ Home program is a part-time online curriculum designed specifically for working adults in Wisconsin. With nearly all required coursework completed online, students don't need to relocate to Madison to complete the program.

While an associate's degree in nursing provides many of the technical skills necessary for effective patient care, a bachelor's degree expands career pathways: from teaching, to management, to professional specialization. Increasingly, employers prefer to hire nurses with more advanced degrees. A BSN is also required for admission into graduate nursing programs.

### Curriculum [BSN@Home]

The BSN@Home program builds on an existing foundation of technical skills, challenging students to think more critically and to build greater capacity for leadership.

If you have previously completed general education and other degree requirements, it is possible to complete the program (33 credits) in one and a half to two years while studying part time (6 credits per semester, 3 credits per summer). The program runs on a traditional semester system (fall and spring)—summer is optional. The first class requires a half day on campus. There is one required clinical placement (approximately 135 hours), which can typically be arranged close to where you live.

### ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The BSN@Home program is offered by six campuses across the UW System: UW–Madison, UW–Eau Claire, UW–Green Bay, UW–Milwaukee, UW–Oshkosh, and UW–Stevens Point. Students typically select their home institution based on proximity. All BSN@Home students are required to complete the same core nursing curriculum, but specific admission and degree requirements vary among campuses.

Prospective students must submit a UW System application and select “BSN@ Home/Nursing Collaborative Program” as the intended major.





*“My two-year degree program was outstanding—I can’t say enough good things about it, but I’ve always wanted a bachelor’s degree. I love to learn, and I felt the four-year degree would make me a more well-rounded person.”*

JoAnn Brink, BSN '18



# University of Wisconsin-Madison



**F**ounded in 1848, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the state's flagship education institution and a research powerhouse. Our students and faculty members contribute to a world-class education and solve real-world problems. We're bonded by a century-old tradition known as the Wisconsin Idea, our pledge that the boundaries of the university extend to the boundaries of the state, the nation, and the world.

Built on an isthmus and surrounded by lakes, UW-Madison and the capital city of Madison seamlessly blend together, creating opportunities and an atmosphere unlike any other campus. Here, the best of both worlds collide: the arts and culture of big-city living with a laid-back, small-town vibe.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**43,000+**  
Students

**22,000+**  
Faculty and staff

**440,000+**  
Alumni

**30**  
Average class size

**936 acres**  
Campus

**19**  
Nobel Prize winners  
faculty & alumni

**127**  
Countries represented  
by students







## RANKINGS

**#1**

Best Hospitals in Wisconsin  
*U.S. News and World Report, 2017*

**#1**

Producer of Peace Corps volunteers  
(2018)

**#2**

Doctorates granted among  
U.S. universities, 2016

**#6**

Total research expenditures among  
U.S. universities, 2017

**#15**

Best public university  
*U.S. News and World Report, 2018*





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**School of Nursing**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON