

PATHWAYS TO NURSING

There are many ways to start your nursing journey. Explore the options below to find the one that suits your goals!



PRE-NURSING DURING HIGH SCHOOL

BUILD HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

- Many nursing programs require practical experience, which can be paid or volunteer, such as shadowing nurses or volunteering at hospitals and clinics.
- This valuable experience helps you determine if nursing is the right path and allows you to learn from healthcare professionals about their careers.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Excel in STEM courses with consistent improvement.
- AP/IB scores can earn early college credit and cover general education.
- Running Start helps you earn credits and complete prerequisites.
- Consider pre-nursing programs after high school.



PRE-NURSING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

START NURSING ASSISTANT WORK

- Earn a CNA (certified nursing assistant) license during and after high school (18+) to start hands-on, paid nursing assistant work.

OTHER NURSING TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

- Complete an LPN (licensed practical nurse) program.
- Complete an RN (registered nurse) or BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program with your LPN license.



NURSING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

4-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

- A BSN prepares you for an RN license at the bachelor's level.
- Choose a 4-year BSN program and start nursing classes in your freshman year.
- Choose a 2-year BSN program and start classes the last two years (upper division) of your BSN.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) to prepare for and obtain an RN license.
- Participate in an RN-to-BSN program while working and attending school part-time.
- Complete prerequisite courses through associate degrees in other subjects (including pre-nursing) before transferring to a BSN program.



BSN PROGRAM AT UW SEATTLE

BSN PROGRAM

- Final two years of a 4-year bachelor's degree program.
- Transfer students' courses may count as the first two years.
- 2-year program for everyone before graduating.

APPLICATION REQUIRED

- Current UW Students and all eligible transfer/postbaccalaureate students must still apply.
- Start your studies at UW and then apply for the BSN program or take courses as part of a community college (associate degree), and then transfer into the UW for the BSN program.

ALL MAJORS ELIGIBLE

- Pre-nursing or not, all majors are eligible to apply for the BSN.
- Prerequisites must be completed before applying.



NURSING STUDIES AFTER COLLEGE

Nurses with a BSN can return to grad school to become a nurse educator, nurse practitioner, nurse scientist, and more. This is a great way to grow as a nurse or specialize further. UW's three campuses offer programs to earn a Master's, PhD, or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.