

NURSING

Program Description

The practical nurse (PN) program is designed for students interested in entry-level positions in nursing. The PN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and has full approval by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. Completion of the PN program allows students to progress for advanced placement in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The PN program prepares the student to be a direct care giver in hospitals, and in long-term care and ambulatory care settings. This program has selective admission requirements. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. A separate admission application to the program is required.

The LPN-BSN program is for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) seeking to become a baccalaureate-prepared registered nurse (RN). Graduates of the LPN-BSN program generally have more employment opportunities, compensation, and job security compared with graduates of the PN program. The LPN-BSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and has full approval by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. The LPN-BSN program prepares students to work as RNs in a variety of health care settings. This program has selective admission requirements. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. A separate admission application to the program is required. The LPN-BSN program begins in the spring each year and is completed in three semesters.

The RN-BSN program enrolls RNs with current unencumbered licenses from Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and diploma nursing programs. The RN-BSN student's prior coursework is considered in terms of the Colorado Nursing Articulation Agreements. The RN-BSN program offers a flexible, accelerated model of instruction using an on-line format. Courses are offered in 8-week modules. There are five start dates and students may take one or two classes per session. The RN-BSN program is accredited by the CCNE. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program.

The traditional BSN program is designed for high school graduates and students without prior nursing certificates or degrees. This four-year program prepares students as professional generalist nurses who practice in a variety of health care settings. It is accredited by the CCNE and approved by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. The BSN program integrates nursing theory, practice, and science with a broad liberal arts education. It has been developed to prepare highly competent professionals with the education necessary to meet the increasing needs for quality health care in society and provides students with the foundation for graduate study in nursing. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. A separate admission application to the program is required.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program prepares nurses for roles as family nurse practitioners (FNPs) or nurse educators (NEs) in healthcare or academic settings. MSN graduates formulate clinical, administrative, or policy decisions to promote health among patients, families, or communities along the continuum of wellness and illness. Students complete a capstone project, based on their clinical areas of interest and substantive expertise. Graduates may continue to doctoral education. Courses are delivered via an on-line format, allowing students to reside in their home communities. However, students travel to complete clinical hours (e.g., rural health). Objective standardized

clinical exams (OSCEs), and graduate program student intensive (GPSI) sessions are held in both in-person and online formats. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the program. The MSN program is accredited by the CCNE.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is for nurses who are interested in an advanced practice role as a family nurse practitioner (FNP) and nurse leader in healthcare systems. DNP graduates are prepared as experts in the delivery of direct patient care and in health systems change. The curriculum focuses on primary care across the life span, health policy, epidemiology, and evidence-based practice. Students must complete a DNP scholarly project which requires them to develop a systems-level intervention to address a gap in clinical practice. DNP courses are delivered on-line allowing students to reside in their home communities. However, students travel to complete clinical hours (e.g., rural health). Objective standardized clinical exams (OSCEs), and graduate program student intensive (GPSI) sessions are held in both in-person and online formats. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. The DNP program is accredited by the CCNE.

Special Requirements

Progression requirements: All nursing courses must be completed in sequence. In the traditional BSN program, all required 300-level courses must be completed before 400-level nursing courses may be taken. The graduate nursing programs (MSN and DNP) require a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a nationally accredited institution.

Students transferring in credit for human anatomy and physiology taken at out-of-state accredited colleges/universities must provide evidence that these courses had separate laboratory components before the course can be accepted to fulfill program requirements.

High school courses in biology, chemistry and algebra are recommended. All non-nursing college courses must be completed before a student can be admitted to the nursing programs with the exception of the RN-BSN program. An admission committee selects students who best meet program requirements. All admission materials must be on file in the Department of Health Sciences prior to deadlines established for each program.

Application deadlines for each program are as follows:

- PN Program:
 - March 1 for fall entrance
- AAS Program
 - April 15 for fall entrance
- LPN-BSN Program:
 - September 15 for spring entrance
- BSN Program:
 - Spring and Fall applications: refer to application and checklist for deadline dates
- RN-BSN:
 - Five start dates, please see dates online
- MSN Program:
 - April 1 for fall entrance
- DNP Program:
 - April 1 for fall entrance

Undergraduate students must have a 2.0 ("C") on a 4.0 scale or higher grade for all courses required for completion of the undergraduate

nursing programs (PN, AAS, BSN, LPN-BSN, RN-BSN). This policy applies regardless of when the course was taken.

Graduate students must have a 3.0 ("B") on a 4.0 scale or higher grade for all courses required for completion of the graduate nursing programs (MSN, DNP). This policy applies regardless of when the courses were taken. A "C" grade or lower in any required course will not count toward graduation requirements. See Graduate Programs section of this catalog for complete degree requirements.

Students admitted to nursing programs must undergo a background check and drug screening and must maintain CPR certification and professional liability insurance for clinical practice. Students in the RN-BSN program must also maintain a current unencumbered nursing license. Students enrolling in graduate (MSN, DNP) nursing clinical courses are required to hold unencumbered RN licenses in states where clinical rotations are completed. Graduate nursing students must maintain RN licenses, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, liability insurance, and current vaccinations for the duration of their graduate studies.

Contact Information

Department of Health Sciences
Health Sciences 101
970.248.1398

Programs of Study Associates

- [Nursing \(AAS\)](#)

Bachelors/Minors

- [LPN to BSN, Nursing \(BSN\)](#)
- [Nursing \(BSN\)](#)
- [RN to BSN, Nursing \(BSN\)](#)

Certificates

- [Practical Nursing \(Technical Certificate\)](#)

Graduate

- [Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner \(MSN\)](#)
- [Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner \(DNP-FNP\)](#)
- [Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing \(MSN\)](#)
- [Nurse Educator, Nursing \(MSN\)](#)