

Application Resources

Nursing

Pathways to Nursing

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing**
 - Traditional BSN (transfer to a 4 year Nursing program)
 - Accelerated BSN (2nd Bachelor's degree, 15-18 months, nursing clinicals only, pre-requisites are still required)
- Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing**
 - Complete pre-requisite courses in undergraduate program to be eligible to apply to a MSN program.
 - Prepares students for the NCLEX (licensing exam)
 - Similar to Accelerated BSN, but at the graduate level

Applying to Nursing Programs

- NursingCAS:** <http://www.nursingcas.org/>
- Instructions and FAQs:** <http://www.nursingcas.org/application-instructions/account-creation/>
- Program Directory:** Research specific schools to determine if NursingCAS is used or if you need to apply directly to the Nursing program. <https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/landingPagePrograms>
- NursingCAS application.** The application dates vary by Nursing program. The cost for a NursingCAS application is \$45 for the first undergraduate program and \$65 for the first graduate program you apply to. Any additional programs you choose to apply to will cost \$30 per undergraduate program and \$35 for graduate program. Please be aware that individual programs may also have a school specific fee, in addition to the NursingCAS fee.
- Transcripts.** Order your transcripts in person or online through the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.illinois.edu/transcripts>). Submit your transcript request form(s) the same day that you place your order. Make sure that you hold the order until spring grades are available. Generally, transcripts must be ordered from the institution where the course was taken, whether or not the courses transferred to your Illinois transcript. NursingCAS has a Transcript Request Form to provide the schools you have attended.
- Potential letter writers.** Schedule a meeting with them or provide them with information about you (resume, personal statement, etc.). Make sure to tell them they will receive an e-mail from the application service to complete their evaluation. You may also want to provide your letter writers with resources on what to include in their letter.



Application Tips

- Make sure your application is “complete” in NursingCAS.** This means that NursingCAS will display which programs are ready to submit.
- Ensure that you submit additional materials required by programs.** Make sure you are aware of each individual Nursing program’s requirements. Some programs may require an admission exam (HESI A2 or GRE), resume, essay and varying pre-requisites.
- Complete supplemental/secondary applications.** Some programs may ask you to complete additional essays. *Make sure to answer the questions asked.* Secondary applications are often how admissions committees will distinguish which applicants have researched their programs, and how well they can communicate—beyond what has already been shared. Applicants may have applied early with primary applications, but holding onto secondary applications can have an impact, especially with schools that have a rolling admissions process.
- Ask for financial assistance/waivers if applicable.** Individual schools may grant fee assistance or waivers on their secondary fees.
- Demonstrate professionalism.** Your qualifications as an applicant are not solely based on official application materials—communication via email, over the phone, on interview day (even during informal interactions) can be a part of your evaluation as an applicant.
- Continue your preparation.** Keep your motivation going by continuing to be involved inside and outside of the classroom. This will allow you to have more to share in secondary essays, interviews, letters of update, or possibly in a reapplication. Keep in contact with your letter writers—they’ll want to know how you’re doing, and this will help them if you need updated letters for any reason.

Health Professions Advising & Services

- April is Application Month:** Attend these workshops to learn more about the application process. We even help you write a personal statement. Visit www.careercenter.illinois.edu for calendar of events.
- Personal Statement Reviews:** Submit your personal statement online to be reviewed. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/personal-statement-reviews
- Health Professions Advisors:** HP Advisors are available, even over summer, to assist you throughout the application process. Schedule a 30 minute appointment or visit us during Health Professions Advising Drop In Hours. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/health-professions-advising
- Mock Interviews:** Schedule a mock interview (not available over summer.) www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/mock-interviews