Nursing (BS) - Accelerated

Degree Requirements

Accelerated BSN/MSN Pathway

The College of Nursing has a special Accelerated BSN/MSN Pathway for academically-qualified and highly-motivated individuals that have a bachelor’s degree in another field. The preprofessional component, as listed below, must be completed prior to admission to the professional component. The professional component of the curriculum, which normally takes 5 semesters to complete, can be completed in 12 months of full-time study.

The curriculum and contact hours are the same as required for the traditionally-taught BSN degree offered by the College, except that the course schedule is accelerated and is not confined by the traditional academic calendar. Students in the first 12 months of the Accelerated BSN/MSN Pathway follow the same promotion/progression policies as the students in the traditionally-taught BSN. Students having difficulty maintaining the pace of the program may request a transfer to the traditional program if they are in good academic standing.

At the end of the 12-months of study, students are awarded the BSN degree and are prepared for the RN licensure (NCLEX) examination. During the first 12 months of the accelerated BSN/MSN Pathway, students complete 3 courses that taught at the graduate level. These 3 courses "bridge" undergraduate and graduate knowledge in pharmacology, pathophysiology, and health assessment. Two of these courses may be applied towards a graduate degree if grades received in the course comply with graduate progression policies.

Students then begin the specialty component of the curriculum to prepare for a career in informatics, executive nursing administration, as a clinical nurse leader, or clinical nurse specialist in adult/gerontological nursing. Students who wish to pursue nurse practitioner preparation must obtain a minimum of 2 years of clinical experience before beginning clinical nurse practitioner specialty courses. Courses for the specialty component of the curriculum are offered on-line. Clinical requirements are completed in faculty-facilitated preceptorships.

Department Information

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<th>College of Nursing Administrative Staff</th>
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The College of Nursing is dedicated to the education of professional nurses who provide the highest quality health care to the communities they serve. The practice of nursing is both an art and a science; the focus of nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems.

The College of Nursing has two locations, one is on the USA main campus, and the other is on the USA Baldwin County campus in downtown Fairhope. The resources of the University, the USA Hospitals and clinics, and the numerous clinical agencies provide excellent opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills essential for professional nursing.

Mission
The mission of the College of Nursing is to provide quality innovative educational programs to a diverse student body, to participate in research and scholarly activities, and to provide service to the University, the profession, and the public. The College accomplishes this by providing a caring, engaging environment for the empowerment of student learning potential, the professional development of faculty, and the promotion of the nursing profession.

Goals
1. Cultivate a caring, innovative, and engaging environment to facilitate teaching, learning, scholarship, and service.
2. Deliver innovative quality nursing programs that meet the needs of a diverse student body and other communities of interest.
3. Promote the discovery, communication, and preservation of knowledge through scholarly activities and leadership.
4. Provide service to the University, the profession, and the public.
5. Develop community partnerships to promote nursing and the enhancement of the health care delivery system using interprofessional approaches.

Accreditation
The baccalaureate program is approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and the baccalaureate, master's, doctor of nursing practice, and post-graduate APRN certificate programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036-1120; Telephone (202)877-6791).

Application Procedures
Application forms are available on the College of Nursing's web site. A ($50.00 for BSN; $100.00 for MSN or DNP) non-refundable application fee must be submitted with the application. Money orders or personal checks ($20.00 fee on returned checks) are acceptable. MSN and DNP applicants are also required to complete a primary application in Nursing CAS at www.Nursingcas.org.
Fall semester admission applications should be submitted by March 15 for the BSN program and February 15 for the MSN, DNP, and Post-Graduate Certificate programs. Spring semester admission applications should be submitted by July 15 for the BSN, MSN, DNP, and Post-Graduate Certificate programs. Summer semester admission applications should be submitted by January 15 for BSN program and November 15 for the MSN and Post-Graduate Certificate programs. Applications received at other times will be considered on a space available basis for RN-BSN track only.

Students who choose not to attend during the term in which they are accepted, are not permitted to roll admission status to another semester. Students who wish to be considered for a future semester must reapply, pay another application fee, and compete with other applicants without guarantee of acceptance. Students who drop out of the program for two or more consecutive semesters must apply for readmission through the Office of the Registrar. Readmission is not automatic. Students not accepted during a certain term must submit a new application for admission to another term.

**Student Responsibility**

While the University of South Alabama will endeavor to provide timely and accurate advisement, it is the responsibility of the student to know and satisfy the degree requirements of the academic program, to be aware of the University calendar, [http://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/index.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/index.html) and to understand and comply with University academic policies and procedures.

**Degrees Offered**

The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

**Certificates Offered**

Post-Graduate Certificates are awarded to students completing planned programs of study in a nursing specialty area and subspecialty areas.