

Pre-Nursing Quick Facts



Pre-Health Advising
Pre-Professional Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Students prepare for a career as a nurse by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing in the various settings of the profession. There are a variety of paths to take in becoming a nurse, nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist. There is no “best” major for pre-nursing students at UGA nor are there majors that will make a student “stand out.” Students are encouraged to pursue majors in which they are most interested and in which they believe they will excel.

❖ How do I get a nursing degree if I’m at UGA?

Transfer into a BSN Program: Since UGA does not offer a nursing program, students may choose to transfer into a BSN program after completing the pre-requisites here. Usually, students transfer out after two years, and it is important to know if you are planning on this route early on to ensure all the pre-requisites are completed in time.

Do an Accelerated BSN or pre-licensure nursing master’s program: Students who wish to complete a UGA degree can enroll in an accelerated BSN program or nursing master’s program after graduation. Pre-requisite courses for the programs will be completed alongside the regular undergraduate course work.

Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.50
- Science GPA: 3.50
- TEAS: 75% or higher
- HESI: 75% or higher
- GRE: ~300 combined score & ~4.0 writing (scores above the 50th percentile)

General Information

- Bachelor’s Degree
- Accelerated Bachelor’s Degree
- Master’s Degree
 - Nurse Practitioner
 - Nurse Anesthetist
- Doctorate of Nursing Practice

Required Courses & GPA Expectations

DISCLAIMER: This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need for every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements. For example, **Emory University** requires a chemistry sequence (not just a science sequence) while **Augusta University** requires a science sequence (can be a biology or chemistry sequence).

❖ Do grade trends matter?

Admissions committees look not only at raw numbers, but also at grade trends on a student’s transcript, so a bad semester is not necessarily detrimental. However, they will notice negative trends such as if a student is consistently withdrawing from or performing poorly in hard sciences or is completing courses away from their home institution. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. Students must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content as this will translate directly to their ability to perform in a nursing program.

Typical Nursing Pre-Requisites

Biology (BIOL 1103/L & 1104/L) **OR**
Biology (BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L) **OR**
Chemistry (CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L)
Anatomy and Physiology (CBIO2200/L & CBIO2210/L)
Psychology (PSYC1101 or PSYC3230)
Microbiology (MIBO2500/L or MIBO 3500 & MIBO 3500L/3510L)
Lifespan Development (HDFS 2200)
Human Nutrition (FDNS 2100)
Statistics (STAT 2000)

Application Types

For many nursing programs, student will need to apply directly to the institution. However, some nursing programs utilize the NursingCAS application service. Official transcripts, TEAS/GRE scores, a personal statement, and letters of recommendation are all submitted to NursingCAS and then disseminated to the selected nursing programs. Currently the only programs in the state of Georgia to use NursingCAS are Augusta University and Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Deadlines for nursing school applications can vary widely. Most nursing schools have fall and spring application deadlines, however some schools have deadlines only in the fall. Students are responsible for checking the application deadlines for the programs to which they hope to apply.

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HESI & TEAS

The TEAS and HESI are nursing school entrance exams for **non-graduate level nursing programs**. Nursing schools will require either the TEAS or the HESI, but not both and will specify which of the two exams a student must take for their program. Students are responsible for checking which exam their programs of choice require.

❖ HESI (HESI A2):

The HESI exam costs \$45 and is offered multiple times a month. It consists of two sections.

Academic section: Math, Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar, Biology, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, and Chemistry.

Personality section: Learning Styles Assessment and Personality Profile

A total score of 100% is possible, but students should aim for at least 75% overall.

❖ TEAS:

The TEAS exam costs \$70 and is offered multiple times a month. There are four sections on the TEAS exam.

Reading: 31% of the test

Math: 22% of the test

Science: 31% of the test

English: 16% of the test

A total score of 100% is possible, but students should aim for at least 75% overall.

GRE

Students applying to graduate level nursing programs will need to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) rather than the TEAS or HESI. The GRE consists of three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay section. There are no specific courses that students need to take prior to the GRE, but students should plan to dedicate roughly six to eight weeks to exam preparation. While students can opt for a commercial prep course for the GRE, self-study is often sufficient.

Students usually sit for the exam in their junior or senior year depending on their application timeline. Generally, it is recommended for a student to take the GRE January-May as they head into the application cycle. The GRE is offered via University Testing Services on a regular basis.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a large portion of the application that should not be neglected. Nursing schools are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can manage rigorous courses while staying busy, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Nursing schools are looking for students that show depth of commitment and substantial involvement and leadership in the community. Volunteering does *not* have to be clinically related.

Letters of Evaluation

Most Nursing schools require two to three letters of evaluation. Requirements can vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have collected the correct letters for their program of interest. Generally, programs expect students to provide one letter from a science faculty member, a major faculty member and one other of the student's choosing. This can come from a nurse, a physician, a research mentor, volunteer coordinator, employer, etc. While students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.

Examples of Georgia Nursing Program Application Dates

Institution	Fall Application Date	Spring Application Date
Augusta University	January	N/A
Emory University	January	August
Kennesaw State University	July	February
North Georgia University	December	June
Piedmont College	January	N/A

This is not a complete listing of schools

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