

UMSL Nursing

Career Outlook

Nurses have discovered that their intelligence, compassionate caring and desire to serve people have led to outstanding career choices and the opportunities for nurses continue to increase.

As the health care delivery system in the United States has changed, so has the practice of nursing. An integral and respected part of the new health care delivery system, the nursing profession has expanded beyond traditional acute care settings. In addition to their important niche in hospitals, nurses have taken on new responsibilities in the community. Thus, the career opportunities for nurses who hold the bachelor of science in nursing or advanced degrees in nursing have expanded.

An increasingly important part of the practice of nursing takes place in managed care organizations. As members of health care teams, nurses serve as primary care providers, liaisons between physician and patient and participants in health care procedure eligibility determination. Community health nursing, which includes home health care, parish and geriatric nurses, extends the practice of nursing to ensure the well-being of rural and city populations. These are just a few of the growing areas of nursing practice.

Educating nurses for the future, the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis prepares nurses to meet the exciting changes and challenges in the practice of nursing.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Students who plan to attend the College of Nursing directly after high school are encouraged to take advanced science and math courses in high school in addition to completing the high school units required by the University.

The basic baccalaureate nursing degree requires 120 credit hours. Graduates of the Pre-Licensure BSN Options (i.e. Traditional, Accelerated and Part-Time) are prepared for the professional nurse licensure exam for registered nurses.

Students are exposed to a broad liberal arts education with required courses in composition, humanities, science and social and behavioral science. The nursing curriculum includes theory and practice settings. Students will participate in classes in pharmacology, pathophysiology, nutrition, health assessment and research, among others. Clinical practice in a variety of community and hospital settings offers experience in the areas of critical care, mental health, pediatric and maternity nursing.

BSN: Traditional Option

The College of Nursing has a two-tiered admission process: the Pre-Clinical Track and the Clinical Track.

Students admitted to the pre-clinical track begin by completing all nursing prerequisites and general education coursework. Admission to the pre-clinical track does not guarantee admission into the clinical track of any of the Pre-Licensure BSN Options, unless a student is admitted under the Freshman Guaranteed Clinical Criteria.

Freshman Guaranteed Clinical Criteria

First-time freshmen and applicants with fewer than 24 college credit hours who meet the following criteria will earn a guaranteed space in the clinical track of the Traditional BSN Option:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum ACT of 22

In order to keep their guaranteed clinical space, students must meet the following minimum criteria upon enrollment:

- Maintain full-time enrollment at UMSL
- Maintain minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA (calculated on all attempts at all college-level courses)
- Maintain minimum 2.75 science GPA (calculated on first attempts only of Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Microbiology)

General Freshman Admission: Pre-Clinical Track

First-time freshmen and applicants with fewer than 24 college credit hours:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum ACT of 21

Transfer Admission: Pre-Clinical Track

Applicants with 24 or more transferable college credit hours from an accredited college or university:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA (calculated on all attempts at all transferable college-level courses)

Clinical Track Admission

The clinical track of the Traditional Option is full-time, encompassing approximately 2 ½ years over a period of five regular semesters, with enrollment beginning each Fall and Spring. Spaces in the clinical track are limited; and admission is highly selective and competitive. Admission to the University does not ensure that a student will be admitted to the clinical track of the College of Nursing's Traditional Option.

Clinical applicants must meet the following minimum criteria to be considered:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA (calculated on all attempts at all transferable college-level courses)
- Minimum 2.5 science GPA (calculated on first attempts only of Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Microbiology)
- Completion of all general education requirements
- Completion of all prerequisites with a grade of C- or higher
- Required science courses (listed above) completed within 10 years prior to enrollment

BSN: Accelerated Option

The Accelerated Option of the College's BSN Program is designed for students who have an earned degree in a discipline other than nursing or for outstanding transfer students who have completed the prescribed general education and science courses (62 hour minimum). Classes are developed with the adult learner in mind, using self-directed learning activities.

The clinical track of the Accelerated Option is full-time, encompassing 15 months over a period of two regular semesters and two summer sessions, with enrollment beginning each summer. Spaces in the clinical track are limited; and admission is highly selective and competitive. Admission to the University does not ensure that a student will be admitted to the clinical track of the College of Nursing's Accelerated Option.

Clinical applicants must meet the following minimum criteria to be considered:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (for applicants holding a baccalaureate degree in another field of study from a regionally accredited college or university); minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 (for applicants not holding a baccalaureate degree in another field of study from a regionally accredited college or university). GPA is calculated on all attempts at all transferable college-level courses.
- At least 62 transferable credit hours from a regionally accredited college or university (for applicants not holding a baccalaureate degree in another field of study from an accredited college or university)
- Completion of all general education requirements
- Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of C or higher
- Required science courses (Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Microbiology) completed within 10 years prior to enrollment

BSN: Part-Time Option

The Part-Time Option of the College's BSN Program is designed for students who prefer to take the nursing curriculum at a part-time pace, with courses and clinicals taking place in the evenings and/or on weekends.

The clinical track of the Part-Time Option encompasses 3 years over a period of six regular semesters and three summer sessions, with enrollment beginning each spring. Spaces in the clinical track are limited; and admission is highly selective and competitive. Admission to the University does not ensure that a student will be admitted to the clinical track of the College of Nursing's Part-Time Option. Please note that there will be a change to the Part-Time Option's curriculum, effective Fall 2013. Please contact the College of Nursing for details.

Clinical applicants must meet the following minimum criteria to be considered:

- Admission to UMSL
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA (calculated on all attempts at all transferable college-level courses)
- Minimum 2.5 science GPA (calculated on first attempts only of Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Microbiology)
- Completion of all general education requirements

- Completion of all prerequisites with a grade of C- or higher
- Required science courses (listed above) completed within 10 years prior to enrollment

BSN Completion

The BSN Completion Program is designed for students who are licensed registered nurses. The program is designed for working RNs who are balancing work, home and school responsibilities. Nursing courses are scheduled the same evening throughout the program. The nursing curriculum is completed over four semesters and two summer terms and takes two years to complete.

The College of Nursing respects BSN Completion students as adult learners who are licensed professionals and possess years of experience. The BSN Completion curriculum does not repeat courses, which RNs have already had in their previous nursing programs. Students may choose to attend classes on the UMSL campus, at various off-campus sites, or online. During the final semester, the online students are required to attend the UMSL campus to complete required testing.

Master of Science in Nursing

The College of Nursing's MSN program offers curricula to prepare graduates as either Nurse Practitioners or Nurse Educators. The program is designed to provide skills and knowledge in advanced practice roles in nursing.

Doctoral Degree Programs

The highest academic preparation in nursing is the doctoral degree. The doctoral programs at UMSL's College of Nursing focus on preparation either for original research (PhD) or for databased improved practice outcomes (DNP).