

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing Pre-licensure Programs
Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN)
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
& Concentrations: LPN to ASN, Military Medic-Paramedic to
ASN, LPN to BSN, & Accelerated BSN
APDG POLICIES

ACCREDITATION

The Associate of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs at NSU are approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. The Associate of Science in Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, (404) 975-5000. The baccalaureate degree program in nursing at Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K. Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC, 20001, (202) 887-6791.

**SPECIAL ADMISSION, PROGRESSION,
DISMISSAL, AND GRADUATION
POLICIES**

Students who select the Bachelor of Science in Nursing or the Associate of Science in Nursing as a major must meet University admission requirements and comply with academic regulations and policies. Students who have been dismissed from the ASN or BSN program at Northwestern are not eligible for readmission in either the ASN or BSN program for a minimum of 3 years.

Students transferring to Northwestern from another nursing program must provide a letter from the transferring nursing program stating the student is in good standing and eligible for readmission to, or continuation in, that program to be considered for admission to clinical nursing courses in the ASN or BSN program at NSU.

A student **must** receive approval from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) before being accepted into either program. Failure to disclose or to correctly answer the questions constitutes falsification of documents and may result in delay or denial of admittance. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing will conduct a criminal background check (CBC) on all applicants. For further information, students may refer to the "*Guidelines for Denial or Delay of Licensure, Reinstatement, or the Right to practice Nursing as a Nursing Student,*" article 3324 and 3331 located on the LSBN website: <https://www.lsbns.state.la.us/laws-and-rules/>.

Students are encouraged to review the LSBN website. The student is not to personally contact the LSBN without direct guidance from the Program director.

If a student is admitted to the clinical sequence of the program, any subsequent disciplinary action, arrest, criminal charge or conviction, addiction, or impairment, etc. shall also be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to the appropriate Program Director and to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN). All required documents shall be forwarded to the LSBN for evaluation in determining the student's eligibility to continue in the clinical sequence of the program.

The following statements relating to admission, progression, and dismissal are consistent with the policies of the University.

SPECIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY

1. An Application for Admission to the University with the appropriate fee.
2. Official transcripts from all universities attended to the Office of Admissions, 306 Sam Sibley Drive, Student Services Center Suite 235, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002.
3. All freshman and transfer applicants with fewer than three credits in English composition and three credits in college mathematics beyond the developmental level must adhere to all university admission requirements.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL NURSING COURSES

Admission to the University does not guarantee enrollment in clinical nursing courses. Selection for enrollment in nursing courses is on a competitive basis for available spaces. Students must meet the following minimum criteria to be considered for selection for enrollment in clinical nursing courses:

1. Admission to the University and submission of all official transcripts to the Office of Admissions on the Natchitoches campus.
2. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.
 - a. Accelerated Program – cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.
3. A minimum grade of "C" in all required biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, and nursing courses. Students must have completed anatomy and physiology courses within ten (10) years of application to clinical nursing courses.
4. Completion of pre-requisite general academic courses toward the degree.
 - a. ASN Program – first semester of curriculum pattern (may be in the process of completing during the semester prior to applying for clinical nursing courses).
 - i. LPN to RN – first semester of the LPN to RN curriculum (may be in the process of completing during the semester prior to applying for clinical nursing courses).
 - ii. Military Medic/Paramedic to RN -first semester of the Military Medic/Paramedic curriculum (may be in the process of completing during the semester prior to applying for clinical nursing courses).
 - b. BSN Program – first three semesters of curriculum pattern (may be in the process of completing during the semester prior to applying for clinical nursing courses).

- i. LPN to BSN – first three semesters of the LPN to BSN curriculum (may be in the process of completing during the semester prior to applying for clinical nursing courses).
- ii. Accelerated BSN Program – Completion of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university (or within one semester of completing a bachelor’s degree).
- iii. All general education classes required for the Accelerated BSN program must be completed.

NOTE: To be eligible for enrollment in NURB 3030 (Nursing as a Profession) and/or 3050 (Concepts of Altered Health States), students must have completed the courses in the first two semesters of the curriculum pattern AND either be enrolled or have already taken the general education courses in the 3rd semester of the curriculum pattern. Additionally, a minimum GPA of 2.7 in courses required for the BSN degree is required to be enrolled in NURB 3030 (Nursing as a Profession) and NURB 3050 (Concepts of Altered Health States), and the student must achieve the minimum (or higher) score on the entrance exam. **The electronic request for NURB 3030 and 3050 is located on the CON website.**

- c. NURA 1050 (History, Issues, and Trends in Nursing) and NURB 3030 (Nursing as a Profession), and NURB 3050 (Concepts of Altered Health States) must be successfully completed within four (4) years of application to clinical nursing courses.
5. Minimum grade point average of 2.7 in all courses completed that are required for the degree excluding electives. The ASN and BSN program calculates GPA for **clinical ranking** using all **grades (including repeated and failed courses)** earned in required courses completed at the time of the application. Courses students are enrolled in at the time of the application are not used for ranking unless the course grade is available prior to the ranking process.
 - a. Accelerated BSN Program – minimum grade point average of 3.0
 6. Completion of all required immunizations and other health information.
 7. Completion of required entrance exams for nursing, achieving at least the minimum required score on the exam. **All exams are to be face-to-face, or in-person proctored. No remote proctored exams will be accepted.**
 - a. Completion of the required entrance exam for nursing.
 1. May have only one attempt per semester (including fall, spring and summer semesters).
 2. Achieve at least the minimum required score on the exam.
 3. Entrance exam score is valid for 24 months
 4. Maximum of four attempts is allowed (one attempt per semester; includes fall, spring, and summer semesters) regardless of the program (ASN/BSN) per academic year (including fall, spring, and summer semesters).
 5. Failure to earn the minimum required score within four attempts will result in the student being denied admission into nursing courses (both ASN and BSN)

programs) for three calendar years from the date of the last attempt.

- b. After three calendar year, the student may repeat the required entrance am procedure as outlined above.
 - c. Additional information may be found on the College of Nursing website.
8. Completion of an Application to Enroll in Clinical Nursing Courses form including:
- a. Completion of the **online** Clinical Application must be completed by the required deadlines.
 - b. Providing a copy of scores on required entrance examinations for nursing.
 - c. Verification of licensure as a health care provider (if applicable).
 - d. Response to any Request for Waiver of Policy (if applicable).
 - e. Final order of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (if applicable).
 - f. Completion of required criteria a-e must be submitted to the Undergraduate Program Director/ASN or BSN Coordinator by email or **hand-delivered no later than** the following deadlines:
 - i **Fall enrollment –April 15th**
 - ii **Spring enrollment – August 15th**
 - iii **Summer enrollment for Accelerated Program – October 15 preferred, February 15th will close**
9. An application to enroll in clinical nursing courses is **valid for one semester only**.
10. **No application to enroll in clinical nursing courses will be accepted after the designated deadlines.**

SELECTION FOR ENROLLMENT IN NURSING COURSES

Admission to the University does not guarantee enrollment in nursing courses. Applicants who submit a completed Application to Enroll in Clinical Courses will be selected for admission on a competitive basis according to the following criteria:

1. Grade point average in all courses completed that are required for the degree excluding elective hours.
2. Pattern of repeated pre-requisite general academic courses required for the degree.
3. Entrance examination scores.
4. Number of general academic credit hours required for degree completed at Northwestern.
5. Completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree and/or licensure in the health care system.
6. The student must have earned a "C" or better in all nursing courses to be eligible to change nursing programs/concentrations.
7. The final grade in a repeated course **MUST** be a passing grade.
8. Received LSBN Approval for clinical.

Students admitted to the first clinical nursing course must submit all documents required by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing by the stated deadline. **Applicants who fail to do so will NOT be**

accepted into first-level clinical courses. Applicants must also complete a Health Form within four weeks following registration. These forms will be emailed to applicants with notification of acceptance for enrollment in nursing courses. The physical examination and laboratory tests can be conducted no earlier than six weeks prior to registration.

CRITERIA FOR PROGRESSION IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN NURSING

1. Complete pre- and co-requisites for courses outlined in the curriculum pattern.
2. Earn at least a 2.0 GPA on courses outlined in the curriculum pattern.
3. Earn a minimum grade of "C" in all required biology, chemistry, English, and mathematics courses.
4. Earn a minimum grade of "C" in all required nursing courses before progressing to the next required nursing course(s).
5. Standardized examinations are completed in all course levels and are included as part of the course grade.
6. A nursing course may be repeated one time only. Therefore, you may take the same nursing course two times. The final grade in a repeated course **MUST** be a passing grade.
7. A maximum of two different nursing courses may be repeated, including those dropped with a W, audit, or incomplete. Therefore, a third failure will result in non-progression and dismissal.
8. A student repeating a nursing course must concurrently enroll in the co-requisite nursing course. Reenrolling in a co-requisite course in which the student had previously received a passing grade will not be counted as repeated nursing hours for the dismissal policy. The most current grade earned will be the grade for the course. Students repeating the first level must submit an "Application to Enroll in Clinical Nursing Courses". All grades earned in courses required in the curriculum (including the failing grades in first-level nursing courses) will be utilized to calculate the nursing GPA to rank the student.
9. Students approved to repeat-re-enroll 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th (5th level for BSN Program, only) will be accepted based on space available. The repeat re-enroll form must be completed and sent to the undergraduate director. The form is located on the Undergraduate website.
10. Maintain current BLS and remain current with health form requirements and immunizations.
11. A student must have a primary major declared for the program from which they plan to graduate.
12. The student must comply with all requirements in the affiliation agreements of clinical agencies.
13. Must maintain LSBN eligibility.

CRITERIA FOR DISMISSAL FROM UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN NURSING

A student is subject to dismissal from Undergraduate Studies in Nursing for the following reasons:

1. Failure to earn the minimum required score on the entrance examinations.
2. Failure to earn a minimum grade of "C" in more than 2 required nursing courses (including "W,

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- audit, or incomplete).
3. Student will be dismissed if the student has been unsuccessful after two enrollments in the same required nursing course (including "W, audit, or incomplete).
 4. Participation in academic cheating and/or unauthorized possession of an examination.
 5. Plagiarism.
 6. Falsification of patient, personal, and/or agency records.
 7. The unlawful and/or unauthorized use, abuse, possession, distribution, transportation, manufacture, concealment, consumption, promotion, or sale of alcohol, illegal drugs, legal drugs obtained illegally, controlled substances, or designer drugs.
 8. Illegal possession of weapons.
 9. Theft.
 10. Improper or abusive use of social media.
 11. Lack of professional compatibility or unsafe clinical practice as identified by the faculty in either of the Undergraduate Nursing programs.
 12. Loss of LSBN eligibility.

CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION

Criteria for graduation from the BSN or ASN programs are:

1. Complete the University requirements for graduation.
2. Complete the approved curriculum within a four-year period after enrollment in the first clinical nursing course. The courses identified as clinical courses are NURA 1100/1110, NURA 1060, NURA 108/181, NURB 3040/3041, and 3060/3061.
3. A minimum grade of "C" in all required biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, and nursing courses.
4. Completion of all standardized examinations and/or NCLEX reviews as prescribed in each course.
5. Students must have their correct major on file with the registrar to graduate.
6. The final grade in a repeating course **MUST** be a passing grade.

REQUESTS FOR WAIVER OF POLICIES

Forms for Waiver of the Admission, Progression, Dismissal, and Graduation Policies should be submitted online at <https://www.nsula.edu/nursing/nursing-programs/>.

The committee will review the request for waiver and make recommendations to the appropriate Program Director. The student will receive written notification regarding the decision.

For information on Grade Appeals or University Suspension Appeals, refer to the University Academic Regulations and Policies in the General Catalog. The student may also access this and other information online at the Office of the Registrar.

TRANSFER CREDIT IN NURSING COURSES

A transfer student may request credit for selective nursing courses based on the following criteria:

1. Successful completion of the course at another nursing program which is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and/or CCNE.
2. Review of the course syllabus and approval by the Director for Undergraduate Studies in Nursing. A student who does not receive transfer credit may request to write a credit examination or enroll in the course. Transfer students must meet residency requirements.

CREDIT EXAMINATION IN NURSING COURSES

The College of Nursing and School of Allied Health faculty believe that there are many potential avenues for the acquisition of knowledge, attitudes and skills which are required for practice as an RN. In keeping with this philosophy, the faculty believes that student experiences in a formal educational environment should build on the student's present level of achievement. Therefore, the faculty subscribe to the principles of validation of the candidate's competencies and the awarding of credit based upon satisfactory achievements on examination. The candidate is allowed to matriculate in the curriculum pattern at a level appropriate to demonstrated achievement. All courses at and above the designated level of entry must be taken in residence.

1. The student must meet the requirements of the University to write credit examinations.
2. The student must meet with a faculty advisor to determine eligibility to write a credit examination and to secure information about preparation materials and testing dates.
3. The graduate of a practical nurse program may not write credit examinations in any nursing course until passing the NCLEX-PN.
4. The student requesting to write a credit examination must register for the specific credit examination in addition to other enrollment at registration.
5. Credit examinations for laboratory/clinical courses have a written and practical component. The student is required to achieve a passing score on the written component to be eligible to take the practical component. The student must achieve a passing score on both the written and practical components in order to achieve credit for the course.

CONCENTRATION SPECIFICS

Admission to the University does not guarantee enrollment in nursing courses.

Applicants who submit a completed Application to one of the concentrations must meet the same admission criteria as the generic student.

Articulation Programs — for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) The purpose of the articulation plans within the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health is to facilitate the upward progression of students in nursing curricula. As validation of knowledge and skills, all prospective students must have worked one year or currently working with one year of experience in nursing practice and possess a current, unencumbered license to practice nursing (LPN/LVN). Applicants should schedule an appointment with a faculty advisor for planning.

LPN to ASN Articulation Program (400A)

Selection for Enrollment in Nursing Courses

1. Submit a completed Application to Enroll in NURA 1060, which must meet the same admission criteria as the generic ASN student except for completing NURA 1050, and will be selected on a competitive basis according to the following criteria.
2. May have one attempt at the required entrance exams if not successful, may repeat in 30 days from the previous exam.
3. After one calendar year, the student may repeat the required entrance exam once. If the student is still not successful, the student must sit out three years.
4. An LPN student that does not achieve the required minimum score for the LPN-ASN concentration, but does achieve the required minimum score for the generic ASN concentration, may apply to the ASN program on a competitive basis with the generic students.

Admission to clinical courses

1. Successful completion of a state-approved PN/VN program.
2. Full-time employment in nursing practice as an LPN/LVN for a minimum of one (1) year.
3. A current, unencumbered LPN/LVN license to practice in Louisiana.
4. Proof of completion of IV therapy.

LPN Placement in the ASN Program (400 A)

1. The LPN-ASN student who scores below the minimum required scores on the entrance exams for the LPN to ASN but achieves the required minimum score for the generic ASN program, is eligible to apply to the ASN program on a competitive basis with the generic students.
2. The LPN-ASN student who earns a grade of below "C" in Nursing 1060 is eligible to enter NURA 1500/1510 on a "space available" basis. Students may not re-enroll in NURA 1060. The student must also enroll in NURA 1050. Failure to pass NURA 1050, NURA 1500, and/or NURA 1510 will result in dismissal from the College of Nursing.
3. The LPN-ASN student who passes NURA 1060 is eligible to enter NURA 2100/2110.
4. Upon successful completion of NURA 1060, 2100, 2110, fourteen (14) credit hours in nursing will be awarded for the following courses: NURA 1100 (4 credit hours), 1110 (3 credit hours), 1500 (4 credit hours), 1510 (3 credit hours), NURA 1060 substitutes for NURA 1050.

Military Medic-Paramedic to ASN Concentration (400B)

The purpose of the Military Medic-Paramedic Program within the College of Nursing is to facilitate the upward progression of students in nursing curricula.

As validation of knowledge and skills, all prospective students must be actively involved in practice and possess a current, unencumbered license or certification to practice). Applicants should schedule an appointment with a faculty advisor for planning.

Admission to clinical courses

An applicant who is considered eligible is one who has either (a) completed an accredited associate degree program or a certificate program for Paramedics as recognized by the National Registry and has completed one calendar year of practice as a registered NREMT; or (b) completion of a Combat Medic training Program within any US military branch, and is currently or has previously held the rank of

Medic. Active duty and Combat service are not requirements.

Selection for Enrollment in Nursing Courses

1. Submit a completed Application to Enroll in NURA 1080/1081, which must meet the same admission criteria as the generic ASN student except for completing NURA 1050. Applicants will be selected on a competitive basis according to the following criteria.
2. May have one attempt at the required entrance exams if not successful, may repeat in 30 days from the previous exam.
3. After one calendar year, the student may repeat the required entrance exam once, if the student is not successful the student must sit out three years. The Paramedic Military medic that achieves the required minimum score for the generic ASN program, is eligible to apply to the ASN program on a competitive basis with the generic students.

Admission Requirements

1. Successful completion of the first semester of the Medic-Paramedic program.

Medic-Paramedic To ASN Placement in the ASN Program

1. The Military Medic-Paramedic to ASN student who scores below the minimum required scores on the entrance exams for the Military Medic-Paramedic but achieves the required minimum score for the generic ASN Program, is eligible to apply to the ASN program on a competitive basis with the generic students.
2. The Military Medic-Paramedic student who earns a grade of below "C" in Nursing 1080/1081 is eligible to enter NURA 1500/1510 on a "space available" basis. Students may not re-enroll in NURA 1080/1081. The student must also enroll in NURA 1050. Failure to pass NURA 1050, NURA 1500, and/or NURA 1510 will result in dismissal from the College of Nursing.
3. The Military Medic-Paramedic student who passes NURA 1080/1081 is eligible to enter NURA 2100/2110.
4. Upon successful completion of NURA 1080/1081, 2100, 2110, fourteen (14) credit hours in nursing will be awarded for the following courses: NURA 1100 (4 credit hours), 1110 (3 credit hours), 1500 (4 credit hours), 1510 (3 credit hours), NURA 1080 substitutes for NURA 1050.

LPN to BSN Articulation Program (410B)

The purpose of the articulation plans within the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health is to facilitate the upward progression of students in nursing curricula.

As validation of knowledge and skills, all prospective students must be actively involved in nursing practice and possess a current, unencumbered license to practice nursing (LPN/LVN). Applicants should schedule an appointment with a faculty advisor for planning.

Selection for Enrollment in Nursing Courses

1. Submit a completed Application to Enroll in the LPN to BSN program, must meet the same admission criteria as the generic BSN student. Students will be selected on a competitive basis according to the following criteria.
2. May have one attempt at the required entrance exams if not successful, may repeat in 30 days from the previous exam.
3. See undergraduate APDG policy for continued testing policy.

Admission to clinical courses

1. Successful completion of a state-approved PN/VN program.
2. Full-time employment in nursing practice as an LPN/LVN for a minimum of one (1) year.
3. A current, unencumbered LPN/LVN license to practice in Louisiana.
4. Proof of completion of IV therapy.

LPN Placement in the BSN Program (410 B)

1. The LPN-BSN student who scores below the minimum required scores on the entrance exams for the LPN to BSN but achieves the required minimum score for the generic BSN program, is eligible to apply to the BSN program on a competitive basis with the generic students.
2. The LPN-BSN student who earns a grade of below "C" in Nursing 3060 may repeat the course one time and must also enroll in the corequisite course NURB 3061 on a "space available" basis. Failure to a minimum of a "C" a second time will result in a dismissal from the CON per APDG policy.
3. The LPN-BSN student who fails to achieve a minimum grade of "C" in Nursing 3130 may repeat the course one time, and must also enroll in the co-requisite course, NURB 3141. Failure to achieve a minimum grade of "C" in 3150 or 3160 (ALHE 4520), may repeat the course one time. A second failure will result in dismissal from the College of Nursing (per APDG policy).
4. The LPN to BSN student who successfully completes NURB 3030, 3050, 3060, 3150, 3160 (ALHE 4520), and NURB 3130 will be awarded additional credit for NURB 3061 (3 credit hours), NURB 3040 (3 credit hours), NURB 3041 (2 credit hours), and NURB 3141 (4 credit hours) for a total of 12 hours.

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) (410 C)

The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program strives to accommodate students seeking the BSN degree upon completion of a bachelor's degree preparing students for success in the field of nursing.

Admission Requirements

1. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.
2. Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university (or within one semester of completing the bachelor's degree).
 - a. Bachelor's degree- all coursework for the degree must be completed and the degree awarded, or the student may be in the process of completing the degree during the semester prior to applying for clinical courses.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in all courses completed that are required for the degree excluding electives. Courses, students are enrolled in at the time of application are not used for ranking unless the course grade is available prior to the ranking process.

Students from any of the above concentrations must meet the same progression, dismissal, and graduation criteria as students in the generic programs unless noted under the concentration's details.