



PRE-NURSING

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES ADVISING CENTER

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The purpose of nursing is to provide people with rational, individualized, and compassionate assistance in the maintenance and promotion of health, in adapting to acute or chronic illness, and in coping with the final stages of life. Nurses are very important members of the health care team and are extensively involved in direct contact with patients. Completion of the nursing program requires good science and mathematical skills and a sensitivity to the needs of others. It should be understood that nurses work shifts (day, evening, and night) and weekends. Many nursing activities require physical strength.

Portland State University (PSU) does not have a nursing program. The pre-nursing program at PSU is designed to prepare students to transfer into Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs in Oregon. The following schools in Oregon currently offer BSN programs: **Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), Linfield College – Portland Campus, University of Portland, Concordia University, Walla Walla University, and George Fox University.** Admission requirements and prerequisites vary by institution.

As programs have become increasingly competitive, it is recommended that students prepare to apply to multiple nursing programs. This guide is designed for students who are preparing to apply to multiple nursing programs in Oregon.

Prerequisite Courses Required by Most Nursing Schools:

- One year of Anatomy & Physiology
- One term of Microbiology
- One term of Nutrition
- One term of Statistics
- One term of English Composition
- One term of Human Development

Additional Prerequisite Courses Required by Some Nursing Schools:

- One year of Introductory Biology
- One year of Introductory Chemistry
- One year of English Composition
- One term of Biology with a Genetics component
- One term of Cultural Anthropology
- One term of Speech
- One term of College Algebra
- Behavioral Sciences such as Psychology or Sociology
- Minimum credit requirements in the humanities and/or social sciences

The above lists are not exhaustive. Check individual schools for requirements. Note that most professional schools require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses. **Admission to nursing school is limited and extremely competitive.** In 2007, nursing school matriculates to OHSU had an average prerequisite GPA of 3.8.

Requirements for Admission to Oregon Health & Science University/OCNE, Linfield College, and University of Portland

The following is an outline of **OHSU/OCNE** (for a description of OCNE, please see page 6), **Linfield** and the **University of Portland's** prerequisite courses (subject to change at any time). Students should research the admissions requirements of additional nursing schools at www.discovernursing.com or www.allnursingschools.com.

MATH & SCIENCE
Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAT 243 (4 credits) – Introduction to Probability & Statistics (recommended prerequisite: second year high school algebra or MTH 95)
Chemistry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 104/107 (5 credits) – Introduction to Chemistry with lab (recommended prerequisite: second year high school algebra or MTH 95) <p><i>Note:</i> This requirement applies to University of Portland only; they require either completion of chemistry in high school or one term of college level chemistry.</p>
General Biology
<p>Choose an option:</p> <p>OPTION 1 – For those with a limited background in biology and chemistry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 101/104, 102/105, and 103/106 (12 credits) – Introduction to Biology and then • BI 251 (5 credits) – Principles of Biology <i>note: this course is required by the University of Portland and will meet the biology with a genetics component requirement for students admitted to any OCNE program</i> <p>OPTION 2 – For students who have a strong background in science and have taken chemistry in high school or who plan to concurrently enroll in CH 104/107</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 251, 252, 253 (15 credits) Principles of Biology <p><i>Note:</i> The Principles of Biology sequence has a recommended prerequisite of a background in chemistry or concurrent enrollment in chemistry.</p>
Human Anatomy & Physiology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 301, 302, 303 (12 credits) – Human Anatomy & Physiology (recommended prerequisite: one year of college level biology and a background in chemistry)
Microbiology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 234/235 (6 credits) Microbiology with Lab <p><i>Note:</i> This course is taught at PSU in the winter and summer terms. Recommend taking it in the winter term, as the summer course is taught in a condensed format.</p>
Nutrition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHE 425 (4 credits) – Nutrition for Health or • CH 250 (4 credits) – Nutrition

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Psychology

- **PSY 200** (4 credits) - **Psychology as a Natural Science** *or* **PSY 204** (4 credits) - **Psychology as a Social Science**
- and
- **PSY 311** (4 credits) - **Human Development** (recommended prerequisite: PSY 200 or 204)

Additional Social Sciences

- **SOC 200** (4 credits) – **Introduction to Sociology**
- and
- **ANTH 103** (4 credits) – **Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology**
- and
- **One history course from the following list:**
 - **HST 101 or 102 or 103 (History of Western Civilization) or 201 or 202 (US History)**

Note: If you intend to apply to Walla Walla as well, you must choose HST 201 or 202. See the following page for more information on Walla Walla requirements.

English Composition

Choose two courses from the following list:

- **WR 121** (4 credits) College Writing
- **WR 222** (4 credits) Writing Research Papers
- **WR 227** (4 credits) Introductory Technical Writing
- **WR 323** (4 credits) Writing as Critical Inquiry

Note: Although OHSU and Linfield require 2 English Composition courses prior to admission, University of Portland does not.

Humanities

Sixteen credits of philosophy, English literature, and fine art, as follows:

- **Philosophy (8 credits):**
 - **PHL 201 or 300 or 303**

and

 - **PHL 308** (PHL 308 not required by OHSU & Linfield)
- **English literature (4 credits) – choose one of the following:**
 - **ENG 101, 104, 105, 106, 204, 205, 253, 254**
- **Fine art (4 credits) – Choose one of the following art history, history-based music, or theater arts courses:**
 - **ARH 204, ARH 205, ARH 206, MUS 201, MUS 202, MUS 261, MUS 262, MUS 304, MUS 305, MUS 306, MUS 355, MUS 361, MUS 362, TA 101**

Titles for the above courses are available in the PSU Bulletin (catalog).

Foreign Language (Required by OHSU)

Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement: Language proficiency is a baccalaureate graduation requirement that can be met by 1) two years of high school language, 2) two quarters of college level (100 and above) language, or 3) a language proficiency examination. American Sign Language is an accepted language to meet this requirement. Neither high school nor proficiency examination as a means of meeting the language requirement can be used toward the 45 college credits required prior to program admission or toward total credits required for the BSN.

Additional Requirements for Admission to Concordia, Walla Walla, and George Fox University

<p>Complete the following <i>additional</i> courses for admission to: Concordia, Walla Walla and George Fox University</p>
<p>College Algebra</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTH 111 (4 credits) – Introductory College Mathematics (recommended prerequisite: second year high school algebra or MTH 95)
<p>Chemistry</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 104/107, 105/108, 106/109 (15 credits) – Introduction to Chemistry with lab (recommended prerequisite: second year high school algebra or MTH 95)
<p>Speech</p>
<p>Required by Walla Walla University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP 220 (4 credits) – Public Speaking or • SP 313 (4 credits) – Communication in Groups <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Required by George Fox University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP 100 (4 credits) – Introduction to Communication
<p><i>Note:</i> Please check with George Fox for exceptions or alternatives to Speech 100</p>
<p>Physical Education</p>
<p>Required by Walla Walla University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE 185 (2 credits) – Physical Education <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Required by Concordia University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHE 295 (4 credits) – Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
<p>English Composition</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A writing course in addition to the 2 courses from the OHSU, Linfield and University of Portland list
<p>History</p>
<p>Required by Walla Walla University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HST 101, 102 or 103 (in addition the history course on the OHSU, Linfield and University of Portland list)
<p><i>Note:</i> Walla Walla requires 8 credits of non-U.S. history. It is recommended that students who wish to apply to Walla Walla choose History of Western Civilization instead of U.S. History.</p>

Applying to Nursing School

Application Process in Brief:

Students typically apply to nursing school about a year before they expect to matriculate to nursing school (e.g. in the fall term during their last year of prerequisites). Nursing programs are becoming increasingly competitive with average GPA's above a 3.4. Each program varies in how they review and admit applicants. Some programs focus on a prerequisite nursing GPA, while others look at an overall GPA. It is important to understand each program's admission requirements prior to applying. Although nursing programs allow prerequisites to be in progress during the application year, it is becoming more common that students are being admitted with the majority of prerequisites complete at the time of application. The best example of this is the Human Anatomy & Physiology requirement. In recent years, the majority of admitted students have had this requirement met by the application deadline.

Most BSN programs are typically 2 years in length. The exception are OCNE programs, which are 3 years (please see description of OCNE on page 6).

Most nursing programs hold information sessions for prospective students throughout the year. The information sessions are held to go over specific prerequisites, the application process and any additional program requirements. It is highly recommended that students plan to attend information sessions for each school they are applying to.

Tips & Recommendations:

- **Personally read the admission brochure and Web site** of each of the nursing schools to which you plan to apply to obtain information on admissions requirements and deadlines and to determine if the school is a good fit for you.
- **Participate in paid, volunteer, and/or shadowing experience** in the health care field and in the community at large early on in your college experience. It is important that you understand the realities of the nursing field and illustrate through action your commitment to serving the community.
- **Get involved with other pre-nursing students on campus** – joining the Portland Pre-Health Society (<http://www.pps.pdx.edu/>) is a great way to start.
- **Check periodically with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements to meet, and application procedures.
- **Begin the application process early** in the fall of your last year of prerequisites at PSU. Submit your application as early as possible without compromising the quality of your application. Visit the pre-nursing advisers at PSU to discuss the application process.
- **Utilize free university resources** such as the pre-nursing advisers, Writing Center, and Career Center for help with your admission essays.
- **Begin completing financial aid forms in January; the priority filing deadline is March 1.**

Additional Resources:

All Nursing Schools: www.allnursingschools.com

Oregon State Board of Nursing: www.osbn.state.or.us/

Oregon Center for Nursing: www.oregoncenterfornursing.org

Discover Nursing: www.discovernursing.com

American Association of Colleges of Nurses: www.aacn.nche.edu

Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education: www.ocne.org

Contact and Application Information for Oregon BSN Programs:

<p>OHSU /OCNE www.ohsu.edu/son Jennifer Anderson – Director of Recruitment, Admissions, and Progression 503-494-7725 E-mail: proginfo@ohsu.edu</p> <p>Kim Derienzo – Manager/Advisor Undergraduate Studies 503-494-7987 E-mail: derienzo@ohsu.edu</p> <p>Applications available and accepted online: October 1st Deadline: February 1st</p>	<p>Linfield College http://www.linfield.edu/index.php Beth Woodward – Director of Enrollment Services 503-413-7830 E-mail: bwoodwar@linfield.edu</p> <p>Applications accepted: January 1st Deadline: February 1st</p>	<p>University of Portland http://nursing.up.edu/ Elisa Majors, Nursing Program Counselor 503-943-7211 E-mail: nursing@up.edu</p> <p>Applications accepted: September 1st Deadline: February 1st</p>
<p>Concordia University http://www.cuportland.edu/som/nursing/ 503-280-8501 E-mail: admissions@cu-portland.edu</p> <p>Applications accepted: December 1st Deadline: February 1st</p>	<p>Walla Walla School of Nursing http://www.wwc.edu/academics/departments/nursing/ Jan Thurnhofer 503-251-6115 ext 7304 E-mail: jan.thurnhofer@wallawalla.edu</p> <p>Deadline: February 1st</p>	<p>George Fox University http://www.georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/nursing/ Elaine Smith 503-554-2950 E-mail: esmith@georgefox.edu</p> <p>Deadline: October 2nd</p>

Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE) www.ocne.org:

The Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE) is a partnership of community colleges and public and private university schools of nursing. The Consortium was formed as part of the 2001 Strategic Plan of the Oregon Nursing Leadership Council (ONLC) in response to the critical nursing shortage.

- OCNE consists of a shared curriculum taught on all consortium campuses. Through OCNE, students can complete their BSN coursework at OHSU or at any of the participating community college campuses and earn their BSN from OHSU.
- OCNE is currently a partnership of 8 community colleges and OHSU. Local programs include: Portland Community College (2010), Mt. Hood Community College, and Clackamas Community College. Students interested in applying to the community college programs will apply directly to each school.
- OHSU has five campuses: Portland, LaGrande, Ashland, Monmouth, and Klamath Falls. Applicants can apply to all of the OHSU campuses through the online OHSU application and rank the campus they would like to be considered at.
- OCNE is a three year program – a combination of nursing and non-nursing courses.
- Most PSU students prepare for other (non-OCNE) programs and have completed most of the non-nursing courses that are required. This means that PSU students accepted to the OCNE program may progress through most of the OCNE program on a part-time basis.