

BScN Admissions Q&A Workshop – Thursday December 7th, 2023

Application Process

Q: Do you only have one deadline/admission cycle each year? Can students start the program in January or May?

We have a single intake each year in September. We do not have intakes in January or May.

Q: Do you require references for the application? Do I have to complete a CASPER test and do interviews?

We do not require references or CASPER testing for our application and we do not conduct interviews.

Q: I am currently registered in a nursing program at a different Canadian university. Can I apply to your accelerated program?

Yes, you can apply! However please note that we do not accept transfer credits from any other programs and you would need to complete the entirety of our 2-year program. You will also be asked to explain in your application why you are leaving the other nursing program.

Q: Are there any differences for students applying from outside of Ontario?

All applicants, regardless of where they live or where they have studied, must meet the same admission requirements:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5.0 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
<https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/english-language-requirements/>

All applicants should submit transcripts (these can be unofficial transcripts uploaded to the supplementary application) that show all grades to-date, including any Fall 2023, if applicable. For those with courses in progress, once Winter 2024 grades are available, please submit an updated transcript that shows those grades. Unofficial transcripts can be uploaded to the supplementary application. Once you have submitted the supplementary application, updated transcripts can be sent to connect.nursing@utoronto.ca

Applicants who studied outside of Canada may have to submit additional documents such as official English translations of academic records. Please visit [Enrolment Services](#) for details.

Q: How is each part of the application weighed?

We don't weight components of the application. Applications are reviewed holistically. Ideally, we'd like to see both strong grades and a strong statement!

Eligibility

Q: Can I apply from high school?

You'll need to complete at least 2 years of university first! You'll be eligible to apply when you meet the following admission requirements:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
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Note: The earliest time you can apply is during your second year of undergraduate studies.

Q: Can I apply as an international student?

Yes! We welcome applications from international students who meet the admissions requirements:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
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Q: I'm currently a Practical Nurse student at George Brown College. After I finish the program (S121) and take the RPN bridge (S442) at GBC, is that bridge counted as the prerequisite for admission requirements or do I still need to take extra courses at UofT to get into the program?

If your bridging program is a university program and you meet the admission requirements, you can absolutely apply! The admission requirements are:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
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Note: this answer also applies to applicants who are completing an RPN to RN bridging program that is affiliated with a university (i.e. you will be granted university-level credits).

Q: Related question to above: I'm an RPN – am I still eligible to apply?

Please note that our BScN program is not a bridging from RPN to BScN program. However, as long as you meet the admission requirements, you can apply! The admission requirements are:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
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We do have RPNs in the program and there are organizations who provide funding to RPNs who are working towards a BScN: <https://begin.werpn.com/>.

Q: What are the pre-requisite requirements for applicants who want to start in September 2024?

- **1.0 credit in Human Physiology OR 0.5 credit in Human Physiology + 0.5 credit in Human Anatomy.** Students will be best prepared for the BScN program if their 1.0 Human Physiology course(s) cover the following topics: Neurological System, Endocrine System, Cardiovascular System, Respiratory System, Digestive System, Reproductive System, Renal System, Musculoskeletal System, and Hepatic System.
- **0.5 credit in Statistics.** Introductory statistics courses that include descriptive and/or inferential statistics will be accepted. Quantitative research courses are generally not accepted.
- **1.0 credit in Life Sciences or Physical Sciences.** Examples include: Anatomy, Biology, Immunology, Pathology, Psychology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Physics. Out of 1.0 credit in Life Sciences or Physical Sciences, only 0.5 credit can be in Psychology.
- **1.0 credit in Social Sciences.** Examples include: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Gender Studies, Gerontology, Disability Studies, Anti-Fascism Studies, Ethics. Out of 1.0 credit in Social Sciences, only 0.5 credit can be in Psychology.
- **1.0 credit in Humanities.** Examples include: Classics, English, History, Literature, Religion, and Philosophy. Introductory language courses that focus on grammar, vocabulary building, and everyday usage are usually not considered. Acceptable prerequisite courses in humanities should focus on the writing, reading and critical thinking in the humanities.

*Please be aware that we anticipate that completion of a **0.5 credit course in microbiology** will be a prerequisite for the BScN program for the **September 2025 intake** and onward. Applications for September 2025 intake will open in the Fall of 2024. This anticipated change will not impact students applying for the September 2024 intake. Students will be best prepared for the BScN program if their **0.5 credit course in microbiology** covers the following **topics**: Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Bacteria, Viruses, Eukaryotic Microbes, Control of Microbial Growth, Microbial Classification and Identification, Antimicrobial Drugs and Antimicrobial Resistance, Epidemiology and Disease Transmission, Immunity and Vaccines, Principles of Pathogenesis, Microbiota.

Q: Will eligibility requirements change for September 2025 intake?

Please be aware that we anticipate that completion of a 0.5 credit course in microbiology will be a prerequisite for the BScN program for the September 2025 intake and onward. Applications for September 2025 intake will open in the Fall of 2024. This anticipated change will not impact students applying for the September 2024 intake.

Q: What if I'm not from a typical health sciences background? Can I still apply?

Absolutely! We welcome applications from any discipline. We feel that this diversity in educational background brings diverse perspectives that enrich the discussion and experience for everyone in the program.

Q: What if I am from a health sciences background? Is there advanced standing for applicants who have a BSc from health sciences?

Because we offer an accelerated BScN, no student can be granted advanced standing or transfer credits. All students must complete the entire BScN program regardless of academic or professional background.

Q: Am I at a disadvantage if I completed my undergraduate degree over 10 years ago?

Not at all! You will want to outline in your application any lived experiences that have influenced your decision to apply to the BScN and highlight any experiences (previous academic, professional, life, etc.) that have prepared you for success in the program.

Q: Am I at a disadvantage if I am applying while completing my undergraduate degree? Is there a preference for students who already completed their undergraduate or graduate degree?

Not at all! In fact, as long as applicants meet the admission requirements (e.g. have completed or are on-track to complete the required 2 years/10 credits), where they are at in their degree does not factor into the Admissions Committee's decisions. The Admissions Committee will focus on your academic performance (grades) and your statement.

Q: If I have a strong involvement in leadership/volunteering experiences but only have a GPA ranging from 3.0 to 3.4, will I still be considered competitive enough to get into the program? Or does the GPA matter more than leadership/volunteer experiences?

We don't weight components of the application. Applications are reviewed holistically. Ideally, we'd like to see both strong grades and a strong statement (where you'll outline that wonderful leadership/volunteering experience)!

Prerequisite Courses

Q: What if I don't have all the prerequisite courses completed? Can I still apply for September 2024?

Applicants can still apply while their prerequisite courses are in progress, however they must be completed by June 30, 2024 to be considered for our September 2024 intake.

Q: Can I take prerequisite course(s) after admission?

No, all prerequisite courses must be completed by June 30, 2024 if you intend on applying for our September 2024 intake.

Q: If I have to take additional courses to meet the pre-requisite requirements, how do I do that especially if I already graduated from my undergraduate program?

Applicants can complete prerequisite course as a non-degree student at any recognized university institution. If you are interested in completing courses at the University of Toronto, please visit the University home page here: <https://www.utoronto.ca/future-students>.

Q: How far back are prerequisite courses accepted? For example: what if I completed my prerequisite courses more than 5 years ago?

There is no time limit on prerequisites so it is fine if it isn't recent. This won't negatively impact your application. We do sometimes recommend applicants who have been away from academia for over 5 years to take relevant prerequisite courses as a refresher, but this is entirely up to you.

Q: I hold multiple degrees and diplomas: for example, a Bachelor of Arts from overseas, a diploma in Social Services from Seneca College, and a post-degree BSW from York University. Do I still need prerequisites to apply?

All applicants must meet our minimum admission requirements to be eligible for admission consideration and this includes our prerequisite requirements. However, please note that you can use courses you have previously taken at the university level towards our prerequisite requirements if they are appropriate.

Grade Calculations

Q: I have some poor grades for elective courses that brought down my overall GPA. I was wondering how that would impact my application review. Would the admission committee give more weight/consideration to my relevant courses such as science courses or core courses for my program?

The Admissions Committee will review your entire academic history. There is space in the application to elaborate on any obstacles to achievement that you believe the Admissions Committee should consider in assessing your application. Be sure to include what strategies you have in place now to ensure success in a demanding academic program.

Q: If I take additional courses after my undergraduate program (e.g. non-degree courses, graduate courses), can they boost my average?

Applicants who would like to apply for admission to our BScN program and who do not meet the eligibility requirements may consider completing an upgrading year of study to become eligible for non-standard admission. Normally this would entail taking the equivalent of one full year of senior-level undergraduate courses (4–5 full courses or equivalent) relevant to the field of nursing with an average of at least B+.

Your grade calculation would still be based on your most recent 5.0 credits earned in your qualifying degree (i.e. your bachelor's) but the admission's committee would also take into consideration your upgrading year.

Q: How do you calculate the last year's GPA if I didn't take a full course load? E.g. 9 courses completed instead of 10 courses when I apply.

We calculate your final year GPA using your most recent 5.0 credits. In your case, we would use your 4.5 credits (9 courses) from your most recent year of study and then take an additional 0.5 credit from the next most recent semester to reach 5.0 credits. In these scenarios, we always use the highest grade from the next most recent semester.

Q: My latest 5.0 CGPA is above the minimum requirement. However, my past years' CGPA were not high. Would that have a negative impact my application?

The Admissions Committee will review your entire academic history. There is space in the application to elaborate on any obstacles to achievement that you believe the Admissions Committee should consider

in assessing your application. Be sure to include what strategies you have in place now to ensure success in a demanding academic program.

International Credentials

Q: I am an internationally educated applicant. Can I get advanced standing for my degree? Am I eligible to apply?

All applicants, regardless of where they live or where they have studied, must meet the same admission requirements:

- Completion of at least 10.0 credits from a recognized university program
- On track to complete pre-requisite courses by June 30, 2024
- Minimum of 4.0 credits must be above the 100/first year level
- At least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5 credits of your qualifying degree
- Meet the University of Toronto's English language requirements:
<https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/english-language-requirements/>

Because we offer an accelerated BScN, no student can be granted advanced standing or transfer credits. All students must complete the entire BScN program regardless of academic or professional background.

Supplementary Application

Q: How do I strengthen my supplementary application? How does the admission committee review applicants who are not from a relevant field such as health sciences?

We welcome applications from any discipline. We feel that this diversity in educational background brings diverse perspectives that enrich the discussion and experience for everyone in the program. What you can do in your statement is highlight the strengths you will bring to the program (e.g. high academic achievement, social engagement, leadership, etc.).

Q: Do you read every applicant's supplementary application?

YES! The Admissions Committee review the entire application for every single eligible applicant!

Q: Does volunteer experience have to be strictly health-care related? Or do other activities like charities/food drives count?

Please include everything! Anything that you are comfortable sharing that fleshes out who you are as a person or that demonstrates skills and abilities you feel strengthen your application (e.g. community involvement, leadership, commitment to a cause, etc.).

Q: Can you elaborate more on the leadership and community involvement section? Is it in a CV format? How many words?

The Personal Statement Questions are broken into specific sections:

(1) Personal Statement (Required)

Please provide a personal statement that answers the question "Why are you a great candidate for the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing program?" Your statement should include examples that relate to the additional questions below. Applicants are

also encouraged to consider the Faculty's vision, mission and values when responding to the statement question (<https://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/about/vision-mission-values>).

~400 words

- (a) What skills, strengths, and interests do you have that will help you excel in our program?
 - (b) Reflecting on your understanding of the nursing discipline, what academic, personal, and/or work experiences will help position you for a successful nursing career?
- (2) Leadership and Community Involvement (Required)
Describe activities or roles (formal or informal) that you feel demonstrate your leadership potential and/or have positively impacted others that may not be captured on a CV. High school activities are not eligible for consideration.
- (3) Significant Accomplishments and/or Unique Lived Experiences (Optional)
Please tell us about any unique accomplishments or lived experiences that you feel are important for the Admissions Committee to consider in assessing your application. These may range from awards or publications to experiences that have shaped your view of the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the BScN program and the nursing profession.
- (4) Employment History (Optional)
Outline employment history by indicating the job title, the name of the employer, the employment period and relevance to the BScN program or the nursing profession for each position.
- (5) Optional: Elaborate on any obstacles to achievement (e.g., physical, social, cultural, economic) that you believe the Admissions Committee should consider in assessing your application. For example, provide reasons for taking extra years to complete your 4-year degree and/or periods of part time studies.

Q: Are there resources, workshops, or guidance available to help applicants?

We hosted a BScN program information session in November 2023 where the Program Director answers this question. You can watch the recording here and the answer can be found in the "Questions" part of the presentation: <https://play.library.utoronto.ca/watch/6efa9f40484d78bf3f9438c1d841f29a>.

If you are affiliated with a university and have access to their Career Centre or other academic services, check if they can offer services for writing personal statements. For example, U of T offers workshops and on their website there is a free guidebook on how to write a Personal Statement: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/write-your-personal-statement>.

Specific questions about prerequisite courses, etc. can be emailed directly to connect.nursing@utoronto.ca.

Q: Do you accept pdf format of the course outlines?

Yes! Please upload pdf copies of your course outlines to your supplementary application.

Transcripts

Q: I'm a U of T student or was a past U of T student – do you still need my transcript?

Only an unofficial copy! We have access to your official UofT transcript but we ask applicants to upload an unofficial transcript from ACORN (go to Academic History) to their supplementary application for the admissions committee to review. If you are admitted, you will not need to request an official copy of your UofT transcript.

Q: Does U of T accept transcripts from third party websites such as MyCredits?

Yes, we accept official e-transcripts from MyCredits. (Parchment too)

Q: For students taking pre-requisite courses, is it okay to submit an unofficial transcript to prove that courses are still in progress?

Yes! Please do submit an unofficial transcript to show that you are enrolled.

Q: Do you require WES assessments for my transcripts?

No, we don't require WES assessments for international transcripts.

Admissions Statistics

Q: What is considered a competitive average to get into the BScN program?

Applicants must obtain at least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0 GPA on a scale of 4.0) in the final year of study or the in the most recent 5.0 credits however most successful applicants have an average of at least B+/A-.

Q: What was the average GPA for successful applicants last year?

For the September 2023 intake, the cut-off was B+ (77%).

Q: How many international students do you accept each year?

This can vary year to year as does the number of international applicants. For September 2023, we had approximately 40 International applicants and admitted 10.

Q: How many students are accepted last year?

Last year, we had approximately 854 applications, including international applications. There were 231 seats, including 10 seats for international students.

Q: How early will I hear back?

We send offers from April to June. All applicants should receive an admission decision (admitted, declined, or waitlisted) by the end of June.

Other

Q: If my application is not accepted in this admission cycle, would this affect my chances of being accepted in the next round if I decide to re-apply?

No, this will not impact your application if you decide to re-apply.

Q: Can I apply for medical school in Canada and/or the US after obtaining a BScN degree?

That is a question to ask the schools you're interested in applying to! Only they will be able to comment on their own eligibility requirements.

Q: What kind of accommodations are available at the University of Toronto?

For more information about Housing/Accommodations on and off-campus, please visit: <https://future.utoronto.ca/university-life/housing/>. We also encourage you to visit the University Family Housing website as prospective residents who plan to live with full-time with a spouse/common-law partner and/or children: <https://universityfamilyhousing.utoronto.ca/>.

Q: Are there academic accommodations provided for students?

Yes, we encourage you to visit the Accessibility Services website for academic and placement accommodations: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>.

We advise students to register with Accessibility Services as early as possible (i.e. when they accept their offer).

Q: Can non-degree students take BScN courses from the Faculty of Nursing?

No, only students registered in our BScN program can enroll in our courses.

Q: Is your program accredited?

Our program is accredited by the College of Nurses of Ontario. Please see: <https://www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/approved-nursing-programs/rn-programs/>