

BSCN Admissions Application Workshop Q&A

Eligibility Requirements

General Questions

Q: Can I apply from high school?

Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program is a full-time 2-year second entry program, approved by the College of Nurses of Ontario, that requires university preparation so high school students would not be able to apply. The earliest time to apply is during your second year of undergraduate studies! 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
- 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/>

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, 2025
- 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/>

Q: What if I'm a Permanent Resident in Canada but was enrolled in a university program outside of Canada?

Yes, you are welcome to apply if you meet the admissions requirements!

Q: I'm a Registered Practical Nurse (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:
<https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/english-language-requirements/>

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 if I am completing an RPN to RN Bridging program at a different institution – can I apply?

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:
<https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/english-language-requirements/>

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

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 in 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: Does the Admissions Committee prefer applicants who completed their first bachelor's degree?

No, there is no preference for applicants who completed their bachelor's degree (or a graduate degree) vs. an applicant who applies during their second year of undergraduate studies.

Q: Do you accept a two-year bachelor's degree (two years college + two years university)?

Yes, you are welcome to apply as long as you meet the minimum admission requirements!

Q: Could you share any potential barriers a second-degree applicant might encounter during the application process?

If this question relates to potential barriers when applying to a second bachelor's program, perhaps it could be missing certain pre-requisite courses if you didn't have the chance to complete them during your first program. You can take university-level courses to fulfill the pre-requisite course requirements. As a reminder, you will have up to the end of June 2025 to complete pre-requisite courses if you are applying to the September 2025 intake.

We've accept students from all stages of their academic and professional careers. Whether you are applying during your second year of undergraduate studies or considering a career change, the two big tips we share with applicants are: 1) be authentic in your Supplementary Application and 2) highlight your strengths!

Q: How much does a late-diagnosed disability or challenges like being a first-generation student during undergrad impact the assessment of a student's suitability for the program?

We encourage applicants to use the "optional" section (400 word limit) in our supplementary application to elaborate on any obstacles to achievements that you believe the Admissions Committee should consider in assessing your application and be sure to outline what strategies or tools you have in place now to help you succeed in the BScN program. Completing this section will provide more context to the Admission Committee and you can disclose as much as your are comfortable with.

You are also welcome to visit U of T's Accessibility Services website for academic and placement accommodations: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>. We always advise students to register with Accessibility Services as early as possible (i.e. when they accept their offer). This is also mentioned in the offer letter.

Lastly, there are many Mentorship and Peer programs offered through the Office of Student Life for registered students, including [First Generation Student Engagement](#). We also encourage our students to explore programs and workshops offered through the [Centre for Learning Strategy Support](#) to see the full range of supports. Students are also welcome to reach out to the BScN Program Director if they have any questions related to resources, support, and accommodations.

Pre-requisite Courses

Q: What if I'm not sure if a pre-requisite course would fit in a certain category (e.g. Humanities). Can I ask your team to assist me with assessing the course prior to applying?

We would be happy to assist prospective applicants with determining if a certain course would fulfill a pre-requisite course requirement! We just ask that you forward us the course title, course code, institution/university name and a course syllabus or course description to connect.nursing@utoronto.ca. Please note that our team will generally not be able to review transcripts prior to your application.

If you are asking about multiple courses, we recommend using a chart or worksheet to help you match your courses with the pre-requisite course requirements. Once you've completed the matching, you can email us your chart and we'd be happy to provide you with our feedback.

BScN Course Requirement	The course(s) you've completed that you think will fulfill this requirement. Include course code, title, credit units and university name if taken at multiple institutions.
<p>1.0 credit in Human Physiology OR 0.5 credit in Human Anatomy + 0.5 credit in Human Physiology</p> <p>Should cover the following topics: Neurological System, Endocrine System, Cardiovascular System, Respiratory System, Digestive System, Reproductive System, Renal System, Musculoskeletal System, and Hepatic System</p>	
<p>0.5 credit in Statistics. Should include descriptive and/or inferential statistics. Quantitative research courses are generally not accepted.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>1.0 credit in Social Sciences. Examples include: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology,</p>	

<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>0.5 credit in Microbiology. Course(s) would ideally cover most of these topics: Microbiology and Infectious Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: What if I don't have all the prerequisite courses completed? Can I still apply for September 2025?

Applicants can still apply while their prerequisite courses are in progress, however they must be completed by June 30, 2025 to be considered for our September 2025 intake.

Q: What if I meet all the requirements except for one pre-requisite course with a grade less than 60%? Will my application still be reviewed? For context: I encountered some personal challenges during my first/second year of undergraduate studies and it affected my grade for that pre-requisite course.

All pre-requisite courses must be completed by June 30, 2025 with a grade of at least 60% if you are applying to the September 2025 intake. If you have space to take the missing pre-requisite course requirement in either the Winter 2025 or Spring 2025 semesters (i.e. the earlier half of the Summer 2025 semester), you can proceed to enrol in either of those semesters and indicate this in your application.

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 submit an unofficial transcript or other documentation (e.g. a receipt for a paid course) to show that you are or will be enrolled.

Q: Can I take prerequisite courses after admission?

No, all prerequisite courses must be completed by June 30, 2025 if you intend on applying for our September 2025 intake.

Q: How can I take additional courses to meet the pre-requisite requirements if I already graduated from my undergraduate program? Is there a preferred university to complete the pre-requisites?

Applicants can complete prerequisite course as a non-degree student at any recognized university institution and we do not have a preferred institution. If you're not sure where to start, you're welcome to explore the registration process for non-degree students at the University of Toronto here: <https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/requirements/non-degree-students/> .

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

There is no time limit on pre-requisites, 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: If I have multiple courses in a pre-requisite category, will you take the course with the highest grade?

We check if the applicant has completed the pre-requisite course that fulfills the requirements (i.e. topic and a minimum grade of 60%). Please note that the Admission Committee reviews the full academic history.

Q: What's the difference between pre-requisite courses taken at the undergraduate level vs. graduate level?

There is no difference between completing a pre-requisite course at the undergraduate level vs. graduate level. It may be more common for applicants to count courses from their undergraduate program, especially if they completed a thesis-based master's program.

Q: Regarding the Microbiology requirement: Can it be an introductory Microbiology course or any coursework in that subject, for example: immunology or virology?

Yes, we can count a university-level introductory Microbiology course. We are aware that some universities may not offer a specific Microbiology course and may instead separate courses that focus

on different subjects within Microbiology studies. In this case, you are welcome to email us at connect.nursing@utoronto.ca with more information about the relevant courses you took. Please ensure that you include course syllabi or course descriptions along with the course titles, course codes, and the name(s) of the institution(s) where you completed the courses.

Q: I took a Virology course which was an excluded course for microbiology due to the overlapping themes. Will that be accepted?

Great question! Please contact us at connect.nursing@utoronto.ca so that we can provide you with further information.

Q: Are there any alternatives to Human Physiology? Example, could I count a Biochemistry, Genome Biology or Neuroscience course?

No, we are not able to accept substitutions for Human Physiology nor Human Anatomy courses. Applicants will need to complete a 1.0 credit (i.e. a full-year course) in Human Physiology OR they can combine a 0.5 credit (i.e. one-semester course) in Human Physiology and a 0.5 credit in Human Anatomy. Applicants cannot count a 1.0 credit in Human Anatomy to fulfill this pre-requisite course requirement.

Grades

Q: Could you please confirm if the "most recent 5.0 credits" refers to the final credits of my degree specifically, or if it would also include any additional university-level courses I complete as a non-degree student?

The recent 5.0 credits refers to the most recent 5.0 credits in your qualifying degree, which is the bachelor's degree for the BScN program. Please note that the Admissions Committee will review the full academic history, including any courses taken as a non-degree student.

Q: Do credit/no credit grades look bad on an application? What about withdrawn courses?

If there is only 1 CR/NCR course or 1 late withdrawal on your transcript, you do not need to provide any additional information or context about these courses. However, if there is a pattern of CR/NCR and/or late withdrawals, you would want to explain this in your application in the optional section (e.g. why this pattern occurred, what has changed now and what you have in place to ensure success in the BScN program if you are accepted).

Please note: we do not require additional information for courses that were automatically graded as CR/NCR during the COVID-19 closures (e.g. Winter 2020).

Q: Are prerequisite courses' grades weighted more heavily in the application process?

No, the Admissions Committee reviews the full academic history for overall trends and academic performance along with the Supplementary Application.

Q: How do you calculate the last year's GPA if I didn't take a full course load in my most recent year? 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.

Q: If my undergraduate grades were affected by an undiagnosed medical condition, how would I submit documentation (if this is something that is required), and how should this be addressed in the application?

We do not require any medical notes and you can address this in the optional section of the Supplementary Application.

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 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.

- Note: this also applies to applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirement of at least a mid-B average (75% or 3.0/4.0) in the most recent 5.0 credits of your qualifying degree

Application Process

Q: On the OUAC application system, can I proceed to only choose U of T's BScN program or will I need to add two other universities to my choices even though I'm not interested in any other programs and universities?

According to the [OUAC website](#), applicants can apply to a maximum of 3 program choices at any 1 university and you pay a base application fee of \$156 CAD to apply for up to 3 programs. Please note that the University of Toronto only has one Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (accelerated second-entry program) and we do not offer a direct-entry or four-year BScN program.

Q: I'm a 4th year student and would like to apply but I'm missing a pre-requisite course. Can I still apply for Fall 2025 but take the pre-requisite course in Summer 2025 and graduate from my first bachelor's program in November 2025?

Yes! As long as you are NOT registered in another program in September 2025, you can proceed to start the BScN program in Fall 2025 at U of T and attend your convocation in November 2025. For pre-planned events such as convocation, weddings, and other commitments/engagements, we encourage incoming students to reach out to the Program Director at their earliest convenience to make arrangements for their absence.

Q: Are preferences given to University of Toronto students when applying for the program?

All applicants are considered on an equal basis. Current and former UofT students do benefit from being able to apply via the Internal Application, which costs a little less, and not having to pay for UofT transcripts, since we can access those free of charge.

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: I am currently registered in a nursing program at a different Canadian university. Can I apply to your accelerated program? Can I transfer my credits from my first Nursing program to U of T's BScN 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, 2025
- 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 grades from the current Fall session, if applicable. For those with courses in progress, once Winter 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 unofficial 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!

Q: How early will I hear back? Do all applicants hear back at the same time? If I apply early, will I hear back earlier?

We send offers from April to June and not all students will hear back at the same time. All applicants should receive an admission decision (admitted, declined, or waitlisted) by the end of June.

Supplementary Application

Q: Is there a format for the supplementary application?

No, we do not require a specific format for the supplementary application (e.g. no APA or Chicago style).

Q: What are good examples of work or volunteer experience we can do prior to applying?

We don't have a preference for specific types of work or volunteer experiences but we do require you to list experiences after high school. We also understand that for some students may have had limited time and/or resources to do formal volunteer work (e.g. being a President of a student club or volunteering at a hospital).

Our advice is to include experiences where you can really highlight your leadership skills in formal and/or informal settings. Some examples of informal settings: were there times that you took the lead in organizing study groups or took on the role of being a primary caretaker for a family member? Did you go above and beyond your work duties to mentor a colleague or took the initiative to improve something at work that had a positive impact?

Q: In terms of the "Leadership and Community Involvement" section of our supplementary application, do these experiences need to be exclusively leadership-based? For example, could they be experiences such as volunteering as part of a clean up crew for a Canada Day event? How about running a marathon and fundraising for the marathon? When describing these

experiences, is there a preference for using first-person and tying each experience to the nursing profession?

The examples mentioned here are great examples to include in the supplementary application! Yes, it's a great idea to use first-person and to link how these experiences will help you to succeed as a Nursing student.

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.). You'd also want to highlight how you will be a successful Nursing student!

Q: Are there resources, workshops, or guidance available to help applicants with writing the Personal Statement?

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>.

Transcripts

Q: Do you accept physical transcripts?

We accept physical, official transcripts but we do not require them at the time of application. We will require them if you are accepted into the program (except for current and past U of T students).

Our mailing address is:

Bloomberg Nursing Admissions
155 College St., Suite 130
Toronto ON
M5T 1P8 Canada

Q: Do you accept word document versions of the course outlines?

You should ideally upload PDF copies of your course outline/syllabi. If a course syllabus is not available and the home department/university is unable to provide one, you can upload a PDF of your course descriptions. Here is an example of a course description from our [U of T Academic Calendar](#).

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 U of T transcript but we ask applicants to upload an unofficial transcript from ACORN (go to Academic History and save a PDF version of the

page) 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 U of T transcript.

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

Yes, we accept official e-transcripts from MyCreds and Parchment. We can also accept a digital copy of your transcript if it was sent directly to us by your home university (e.g. your Registrar's Office). You can request that they be sent directly to our email at connect.nursing@utoronto.ca.

Q: Do you require WES assessments for my transcripts?

No, we don't require WES assessments for international transcripts. If you already have a copy of your WES assessment, you are welcome to upload it to your application.

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 2024 intake, the *average* entry GPA was A- (80%). We also accepted many applicants who had a 75%-79% averages and who also submitted strong Supplementary Applications.

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. In September 2024, we admitted 8 international students.

Q: How many students were accepted last year? How many will you accept for September 2025?

For the September 2024 intake, we had approximately 839 applications for 231 seats. We anticipate the figures will be similar for the coming intake.

Other questions

Q: If you are accepted and need to defer the date you start the program by a year, are you allowed to do so?

Applicants are admitted with the general understanding that they will start the program in the Fall semester of the year they are admitted. Deferrals are granted sparingly and are normally reserved for exceptional circumstances such as sudden and major illness that makes it impossible for the student to begin the program as planned. Deferrals reduce the number of seats available for next year's applicants (which becomes an issue of fairness) and we cannot predict our future intake numbers. If you find that you need to request a deferral, contact us at connect.nursing@utoronto.ca so that we can take your request to the BScN Program Director.

Please note that there is no penalty for declining an offer of admission and reapplying at a future date.

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. This also applies to applicants who received an offer of admission but decline the offer.

Q: I know Athabasca University offers online courses that could be counted as pre-requisite courses. Are there other institutions you recommend that also offer these courses online?

Our recommendation is to check if other universities offer online courses. We can also accept a select number of courses offered at continuing education institutions such as the courses listed as part of the Medical Sciences certificate at the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto: <https://learn.utoronto.ca/programs-courses/health-and-social-sciences/medical-sciences>. Many applicants take SCS 2159 Basic Human Physiology and SCS 3031 Introduction to Medical Microbiology to fulfill the Human Physiology and Microbiology pre-requisite course requirements (these two courses are offered online).

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

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

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/>