

Frequently Asked Questions: LPN-BSN Track

How can I obtain information about the program?

Associate Degree to BSN program information is available on the website at <http://www.ndsu.edu/nursing> or http://www.ndsu.edu/nursing/baccalaureate_degree/lpn_bsn_track/. Any additional questions can be directed to the program coordinator: Karla.Haug@ndsu.edu

What are the advanced placement exams?

The advanced placement exams are required before starting the program. The exams are national standardized examinations in Adult Health, Mental Health and Maternal/Child Health. The purpose of the exams is to validate your current knowledge in areas upon which the associate degree to BSN program builds. Upon successful completion of the exams and progress in the program, credit is awarded for the specified nursing courses.

When are the advanced placement exams given?

The exams are administered twice a year, April and August. Exact dates will be posted on the website when determined. You do not need to apply to NDSU before taking the exams.

What is the best method to study for the advanced placement exams?

Review using a NCLEX-RN review book is recommended. Adult Health, Mental Health and Maternal/Child Health areas should be studied, with particular emphasis on the areas least familiar to you.

What is the cost of the advanced placement exams?

Current charges are \$60 per exam (\$180 total). This is the cost of the exams and there is no administration fee.

How long does the program take to complete?

The nursing courses take 2 years to complete. Typically 1-2 Nursing courses are offered per semester. General education courses needed for the degree can be taken while taking nursing courses or prior to taking nursing courses. A degree plan will be set up for each student upon admission to the program.

Are all of the courses in the program online?

The nursing courses are online, with the exception of the summer courses that require time on campus as well as a clinical component. The summer session courses are the Adult Health/Critical Care course and the Public Health course. The summer nursing courses typically run from mid May to mid July or early August. Many general education courses are offered online. There may be some exceptions to this, such as Chem 260: Biochemistry. Availability of online general education courses is dependent upon semester by semester offerings.

How do I apply & when is the application deadline?

After successfully completing the advanced placement exams, students are eligible to apply to the Nursing program after they have been accepted by NDSU. The application form is sent to students after successful completion of the advanced placement exams. Application to the Nursing program is due October 15.

What are my chances of being admitted to the program?

The program currently accepts 10-15 students a year. The Associate-BSN Track is not as competitive as the Generic BSN track. If successful on the advance placement exam, admission will be based on GPA, the number of general credits needed to complete to graduate from NDSU, application form, and references.

Will my previous college credits transfer?

*All credits from a regionally accredited college/university are accepted in transfer. Upon admission to NDSU, your transcript(s) will be evaluated by the Registration & Records Department to determine credits applicable toward the degree. A "Transfer Equivalency Worksheet" will be sent to you and to the Nursing Department for your file. This evaluation will be used to determine general education courses needed for degree requirements. See the following website for transfer equivalency information:
<http://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/transfer/>*

What if I do not meet the 3.0 grade point average (GPA) requirement?

We are willing to look at your most recent GPA. With successful completion of the advanced placement exams, you may be admitted to the program under the condition that you maintain a 3.0 GPA in future semesters.

How much are tuition and program fees?

Tuition information can be accessed on NDSU's webpage at <http://www.ndsu.edu/dce/degreeeligibleactivity/undergradtuition.jsp>. Nursing program fees are \$300 per semester. There is also an admission fee of \$100.

Is financial assistance available?

We encourage students to seek out any assistance available. NDSU's Financial Aid Department information is available at <http://www.ndsu.edu/bisonconnection/finaid/>. The Nursing Department also administers some scholarships for which students apply in the spring of each year. Awards are distributed each fall semester. Employers of students often have tuition and financial assistance programs available. Additionally, the ND Board of Nursing has a Nursing Education Loan program. Information about the Board of Nursing program can be accessed at http://www.ndbon.org/education/nursing%20education%20loan/Nursing_Education_Loan.asp.