

NURSING (BS)

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Overview: Multiple Pathways to Your Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing

Earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree through the CU Nursing Traditional, Accelerated, INP pathway, or RN-BSN* pathway from one of the top nursing programs in the country. The University of Colorado College of Nursing has been ranked among the best nursing programs by U.S. News & World Report in 2024 and 2025.

The BSN program is led by world-renowned faculty who understand the challenges of earning a degree. That's why our programs and classes are offered in multiple pathways. From a Traditional pathway with the majority of classes in the traditional classroom setting to an accelerated pathway for those with bachelor's degrees in a non nursing field, to an online format for RNs seeking a BSN* — we have something for everyone. Each pathway offers online courses taught by the same top-notch teachers, researchers and writers as our in-person courses. We know one of our pathways will work for you.

All of our BSN courses prepare the learner to practice as a generalist nurse at the baccalaureate level. Students will learn to manage patient care with compassion through the advocacy of evidence-based, relationship-centered, care. The student will learn the importance of safe, quality, efficient and effective interdisciplinary care to enhance and sustain health and healing. Students work together with other disciplines across the campus including pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, and public health.

The University of Colorado College of Nursing offers five Bachelor of Science Pathways:

1. The Traditional Pathway (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/undergraduate/trad/>): This is a full-time, 24-month option, designed for students who may or may not have earned a degree in the past. The Traditional Pathway follows a required class schedule that includes classroom, clinical simulation, and direct patient care clinical experiences. Students complete their pre-requisite courses at the community college or university setting, and subsequently apply through NursingCAS to the Traditional Nursing Pathway. Once accepted, students begin the Traditional 2-year program the following summer semester.
2. The Integrated Nursing Pathway (INP) (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/undergraduate/inp/>): The CU Nursing program partners with local community colleges (Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver and Red Rocks Community College) to offer simultaneous application and admission to the local community college and CU Nursing Traditional BSN Program. This program is intended for Colorado residents who complete a majority of their prerequisite courses in the Colorado Community College system, and do not have a previous degree.
3. The University of Colorado Accelerated Nursing Pathway (UCAN) (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/undergraduate/ucan/>): Designed for those who have earned a Bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing, students will complete a rigorous nursing program in 12 months. The UCAN student will complete the same number of program credits and clinical hours as the Traditional Pathway student.
4. The RN-BSN Pathway*: This online RN to BSN pathway permits the licensed RNs to complete the BSN degree completely online. The program allows you to transfer the ADN credit so that you can complete the BSN in 16 months or less, while working full-time. Admission to this pathway takes place three times per year.
5. The RN-BSN Early Decision Pathway*: The Early Decision Pathway is available for prospective students currently enrolled in an accredited Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) program who have completed one semester of coursework that includes nursing courses.

*Admission into the RN to BS program was paused starting Spring 2024 with no new admissions being offered. The last courses offered were in Fall 2024 after which time the official pausing of the program commenced and no other courses will be offered.

Admissions Requirements

Admission to the College of Nursing bachelor of science program is highly competitive. In order to keep the selection process fair, admissions requirements are definitive and applied to each application in the same manner. Please keep in mind that applications are not reviewed until they are Verified by NursingCAS. Your application to the College of Nursing must be Verified by the application deadline (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/deadlines/>) to be considered for admission.

Applications are submitted through Nursing's Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/>)).

For complete updated information related to applications to the College of Nursing TRADITIONAL PROGRAM, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/traditional-nursing-bachelors-admissions> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/traditional-nursing-bachelors-admissions/>).

For complete updated information related to applications to the College of Nursing UCAN (Accelerated) PROGRAM, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/ucan-accelerated-bachelors-admissions> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/ucan-accelerated-bachelors-admissions/>).

For complete updated information related to applications to the College of Nursing INTEGRATED NURSING PATHWAY, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/integrated-nursing-pathway-admissions> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/integrated-nursing-pathway-admissions/>).

For complete updated information related to applications to the College of Nursing CU DENVER/CU NURSING BRIDGE, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/cu-bridge-nursing-bachelors-admissions> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/cu-bridge-nursing-bachelors-admissions/>).

For complete updated information related to applications to the College of Nursing FORT LEWIS COLLEGE COLLABORATIVE, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/ft-lewis-admissions-requirements> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/ft-lewis-admissions-requirements/>).

Baccalaureate (BS) Nursing Pathways: Traditional Nursing Pathway

The Traditional Pathway is a full-time, 24-month Bachelor of Science option, designed for students who may or may not have earned a degree in the past. This program includes class room, clinical simulation, and clinical practice as part of the curriculum. Beginning with the summer 2019 cohort, the Traditional Pathway program will be primarily offered at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. However, Traditional students may be required to attend some classes or labs at the Legacy Campus in Lone Tree.

University of Colorado Accelerated Nursing (UCAN) Pathway

The accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing is a full-time, 12-month program option, which requires students have earned a previous bachelor's degree by the semester or quarter prior to beginning the nursing program. The degree can be in a health-related or non-health related field of study. Beginning with the spring 2020 cohort, the UCAN program will be primarily offered at the Legacy Campus in Lone Tree, CO. However, UCAN students may be required to attend some classes or labs on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

CU Nursing / Fort Lewis College Collaborative

The University of Colorado College of Nursing (CU Nursing) at the Anschutz Medical Campus and Fort Lewis College (FLC) have announced a first-of-its-kind partnership to create a four-year undergraduate degree in nursing, bringing the state's flagship medical institute of higher education to the rural and Indigenous-serving campus of Southwest Colorado.

- Close-knit, personalized education opportunities
- High-touch and high-tech simulation
- CU's nationally ranked nursing education and research expertise combined with FLC's liberal arts core
- Community immersion/service learning locally
- Hands-on, culturally sensitive, patient-centered healthcare
- FLC's Indigenous perspective and sense of place
- Students will complete their four-year degree on the Fort Lewis College campus, but students will receive their final degree from CU

CU Denver/CU Nursing Bridge Nursing Bachelor's Program

The University of Colorado College of Nursing (CU Nursing at Anschutz Medical Campus) has a partnership program with the University of Colorado Denver for students interested in pursuing a career in Nursing. The CU Denver/CU Nursing Bridge Pathway was created to promote the diversity of healthcare professionals and to better serve the healthcare needs of the State of Colorado. Students take prerequisite courses at CU Denver and then transition to CU Nursing to complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

RN-to-BS Pathway*

Open the door to greater career options within the nursing field by completing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. The University of Colorado, College of Nursing Online RN to BS in Nursing program is completely online, allowing you to seek your BS degree, balance your life, and work at the same time. The availability of online courses supports the unique need for flexibility and access to adult learners who want to complete their bachelor of science degree while working. Educational technology, such as web-based courses, help to accommodate work schedules and other life commitments for our students.

- Apply if you are a licensed RN. Applications are not limited to Colorado residents.
- Transfer most previously completed prerequisite coursework from a regionally accredited institution.
- Complete the program in four semesters (balanced to work with tuition reimbursements).
- Enjoy the accessibility of online orientation and education.
- Join a cohort, beginning each fall and spring, for progression and connection within a group.
- Benefit from practicum experiences designed to meet your personal goals.
- Focus on an individual area of interest (create a project meaningful and useful to you and your organization).
- Take advantage of earning your BS in nursing from the CU College of Nursing.

*Admission into the RN to BS program was paused starting Spring 2024 with no new admissions being offered. The last courses offered were in Fall 2024 after which time the official pausing of the program commenced and no other courses will be offered.

Traditional Nursing Pathway

Sample program plan, individual program plans will have a different sequence of all the same courses.

Summer		
Year 1		
Summer		Hours
NURS 3023	Patient-Centered Health Assessment	2.5
NURS 3034	Foundations of Nursing Practice	4
NURS 3140	Pathophysiology for Nurses	3
Hours		9.5
Total Hours		9.5

Fall		
Year 1		
Fall		Hours
NURS 3150	Pharmacology for Nurses	3
NURS 3617	Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice I	6.8
NURS 3080	Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
Hours		12.8
Total Hours		12.8

Spring (Individual program plans may be sequenced differently based on student grouping)**Year 1**

		Hours
Spring		
NURS 3567	Mental Health Nursing Practice across the Lifespan	5
NURS 4064	Interprofessional Collaborative Practice	1
NURS 4617	Nursing Care of the Adult Patient with Complex Care Needs	6.7
NURS 3267	Health Promotion	2
Hours		14.7
Total Hours		14.7

Year 1 total credit hours:

Didactic Hours: 24.9

Clinical Hours: 12.1

Total Hours: 37**Summer****Year 2**

		Hours
Summer		
NURS 3667	Nursing Care of the Older Adult	2
Hours		2
Total Hours		2

Fall (Individual program plans may be sequenced differently based on student grouping)**Year 2**

		Hours
Fall		
NURS 3447	Nursing Care of Children and Families	5
NURS 4074	Inter-professional Healthcare Ethics & Health Equity	1
NURS 3337	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	5
NURS 3880	Nursing Role and Practice	2
Hours		13
Total Hours		13

Spring**Year 2**

		Hours
Spring		
NURS 4917	Immersion in Clinical Nursing	8
NURS 4877	Population-Based Nursing - RN	6
Hours		14
Total Hours		14

YEAR 2 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:

Didactic Hours: 15.75

Clinical Hours: 13.25

Total Hours: 29**Program Total Credit hours:**

Didactic Hours: 40.65

Clinical Hours: 25.35

Total Hours: 66

University of Colorado Accelerated Nursing (UCAN) Pathway

Program Plan for Spring start. Students starting in the Fall will follow a similar sequence of all the same courses.**Spring****Year 1**

		Hours
Spring		
NURS 3023	Patient-Centered Health Assessment	2.5
NURS 3034	Foundations of Nursing Practice	4
NURS 3140	Pathophysiology for Nurses	3
NURS 3150	Pharmacology for Nurses	3
NURS 3267	Health Promotion	2
NURS 3617	Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice I	6.8
NURS 3667	Nursing Care of the Older Adult	2
Hours		23.3
Total Hours		23.3

SUMMER**Year 1**

		Hours
Summer		
NURS 3337	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	5
NURS 3447	Nursing Care of Children and Families	5
NURS 3567	Mental Health Nursing Practice across the Lifespan	5
NURS 3080	Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
Hours		18
Total Hours		18

FALL**Year 1**

		Hours
Fall		
NURS 4080	Professional Nursing: Transition into the Role	4
NURS 4617	Nursing Care of the Adult Patient with Complex Care Needs	6.7
NURS 4917	Immersion in Clinical Nursing	8
NURS 4877	Population-Based Nursing - RN	6
Hours		24.7
Total Hours		24.7

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:

Didactic Hours: 40.65

Clinical Hours: 25.35

Total Hours: 66

BS Program Outcomes

- Integrate, translate, and apply evolving knowledge from nursing and other healthcare disciplines across a range of settings.
- Provide collaborative person-centered care that is empowering, inclusive, holistic, respectful, compassionate, just, evidence-based and developmentally appropriate across the care continuum.

- Collaborate with diverse populations and communities in traditional and nontraditional partnerships, including public health, global health, environmental justice, academia, health care, and local government entities, for the prevention of disease and the improvement of equitable population health outcomes.
- Integrate evidence-based practice through the application and dissemination of nursing knowledge and to improve patient outcomes and transform health care.
- Incorporate established and emerging principles of quality and safety as core values to enhance quality of care and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through system effectiveness and individual performance.
- Demonstrates effective use of communication and collaboration when partnering with intra- and interprofessional teams, patients, families, and communities to optimize care and enhance the healthcare outcomes.
- Apply systems-based thinking to respond to complex healthcare environments, ethically, effectively and proactively, coordinating resources to provide safe, quality and equitable care to diverse populations including those impacted by social determinants of health.
- Uses informatics processes and healthcare technologies to gather data, inform decision-making, provide high-quality, efficient and safe care, and support professionals as they expand knowledge and wisdom for practice in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.
- Cultivate a professional identity that aligns with sustainable, collaborative, and accountable professional behaviors, reflecting the core values of nursing.
- Participate in activities and self-reflection that foster personal health, resilience, well-being, lifelong learning, and acquisition of nursing expertise and leadership development.