

Pathway to Nursing School

BS in Biology



A BS in Biology from Young Harris offers all prerequisite courses typically required by nursing programs. Graduates will also benefit by meeting additional qualifications. This pathway details the steps to take in developing a competitive resume and application, based on the observations of faculty who have successfully mentored accepted students. Our BS degree also prepares graduates for advanced degrees or specialization in the nursing field later in their career. Graduates commonly pursue accelerated nursing programs and master's in nursing programs, which are advantageous for many reasons.

Recommendations for admission to nursing schools:

- Pharmacology, Immunology, and Virology
- Additional coursework in psychology, sociology, behavioral sciences, and social sciences
- Proficiency in a foreign language
- Leadership experiences and service, such as volunteering in the healthcare field
- Work experience in the healthcare field
- ABSN or ELMSN coursework

Common prerequisites for admission to nursing schools:

- One year of General Biology courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One year of General Chemistry with one year of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
- One year of Anatomy and Physiology
- Completion of advanced biology courses, including Genetics, Cell Biology, and Microbiology
- Completion of Introduction to Psychology, Human Growth and Development, and Abnormal Psychology
- A GPA of 3.0 or higher (including a 3.0 GPA for all science courses)
- A minimum composite score on the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
- Letters of recommendation from faculty

Graduates typically pursue one of two pathways into nursing. Accelerated BS in Nursing (ABSN) programs typically utilize online coursework with on-site clinical study through a hospital network. ABSN programs traditionally require only 12 or 16 months of additional study, allowing the student to earn a second BS degree. An Entry Level Master's in Nursing (ELMSN) program is for graduate students who wish to attain higher leadership roles in nursing, such as nursing administrators, family nurse practitioners, or acute care nurse practitioners. ELMSN requirements include a BS degree, as well as course requirements similar to ABSNs. ELMSN programs are usually 5 semesters long with included clinical experience.

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Freshman (1st) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 1107 Introductory Biology I
- BIOL 1108 Introductory Biology II
- CHEM 1211 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1212 General Chemistry II
- PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology

Spring: Find volunteer or paid positions in the healthcare field.

Summer: Begin collecting relevant experience by volunteering and service at medical and healthcare facilities.

Junior (3rd) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 3101 Genetics
- BIOL 3102 Cell Biology
- BIOL 3501 Microbiology
- BIOL 1111 Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 1112 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
- Additional coursework in Psychology*
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered**

Spring: Complete TEAS entrance exam in spring prior to submission of application. Research admission requirements of ABSN and ELMSN programs. Apply to summer internship and fellowship programs.

Summer: Complete or retake TEAS entrance exam. Begin preparing nursing school application for submission in the fall. Solicit recommendation letters from faculty for application. Continue shadowing and volunteering.

Sophomore (2nd) Year Recommended Courses

- CHEM 2211 Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 2212 Organic Chemistry II
- STAT 2000 Elementary Statistics
- SOCI 1100 Introduction to Sociology
- Additional coursework in Psychology*

Spring: Apply to summer internship and fellowship programs. Deadlines are often in January and February and applications often require a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Summer: Participate in a summer internship or fellowship. Continue volunteering and working in the medical field.

Senior (4th) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 4990/4991 Senior Research Capstone or Senior Capstone
- Additional coursework in Psychology*
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered**

Fall: Submit application to nursing program for admission in the fall of the following year. Consider retaking courses, if needed, to meet minimum GPA requirements for programs.

Spring: Revise and resubmit application to nursing program admission in the spring of the following year if necessary and available. Consider internships and entry-level positions to enhance application for the following year.

*Recommended courses are Human Growth and Development and Abnormal Psychology.

**Many BIOL 3000+ courses are offered once every two years. Students should enroll in any relevant course when offered during the junior and senior years.

For more information on opportunities within the B.S. in Biology program, contact Department Chair Dr. Andrea Kwiatkowski (alkwiatkowski@yhc.edu) or visit www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology.