

# Nursing (BSN) - RN-BSN

## Degree Requirements

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### General Education Requirements (59 Credit Hours)

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**Gen Ed Formatting Note: Graduate of an Associate Degree in Nursing**

#### Area I - Written Composition (2 Courses, 6 Hours)

- A. 3 Credit hours: EH 101
- B. 3 Credit hours: EH 102

#### Area II - Humanities & Fine Arts (4 Courses, 12 Credit Hours)

- A. 3 Credit hours from: EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236
- B. 3 Credit hours from: ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARS 101, DRA 110, MUL 101
- C. 6 Credit hours from: AFR 101, ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARH 203, ARS 101, CA 110, CLA 110, DRA 110, EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236, LG 101, LG 102, LG 111, LG 112, LG 121, LG 122, LG 131, LG 132, LG 141, LG 142, LG 151, LG 152, LG 153, LG 171, LG 172, LG 173, LG 201, LG 202, LG 211, LG 212, LG 213, LG 221, LG 222, LG 231, LG 232, LG 234, LG 241, LG 242, LG 251, LG 252, LG 271, LG 272, LG 273, LGS 101, LGS 102, LGS 106, LGS 107, LGS 110, LGS 111, LGS 171, LGS 172, LGS 201, LGS 202, LGS 206, LGS 207, LGS 210, LGS 211, MUL 101, PHL 110, PHL 120, PHL 121, PHL 131, PHL 231, PHL 240, REL 100, REL 200, REL 201

#### Area III – Natural Sciences & Mathematics (3 Courses & Labs, 11 Credit Hours)

- A. 3 Credit hours from: MA 110, MA 112, MA 113, MA 115, MA 120, MA 125, MA 126, MA 227, MA 237, MA 238
- B. 4 Credit hours from: BLY 101 & BLY 101L, BLY 121 & BLY 121L, CH 101 & CH 101L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L
- C. 4 Credit hours from: AN 121 & AN 121L, BLY 102 & BLY 102L or BLY 122 & BLY 122L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L, GY 111 & GY 111L, GY 112 & GY 112L, MAS 134 & MAS 134L, PH 101 & PH 101L, PH 104 & PH 104L, PH 114 & PH 114L, PH 115 & PH 115L, PH 201 & PH 201L, PH 202 & PH 202L

#### Area IV – History, Social & Behavioral Sciences (4 Courses, 12 Credit Hours)

- A. 3 Credit hours from: PSY 120, PSY 250
- B. 3 Credit hours from: HY 101, HY 102, HY 135, HY 136
- C. 6 Credit hours from: AN 100, AN 101, CA 100, CA 211, CJ 105, ECO 215, ECO 216, GEO 114, GEO 115, GS 101, HY 101, HY 102, HY 135, HY 136, IS 100, IST 201, NAS 101, PSC 130, PSY 120, PSY 250, SY 109, SY 112

#### Area V (18 Credit Hours)

- A. 4 Credit hours from: BLY 213 & BLY 214, BMD 210 & BMD 210L
- B. 8 Credit hours: BMD 251, BMD 252
- C. 3 Credit hours from: ST 210, BUS 245, PSY 220, ST 305
- D. 3 Credit hours: Computer Elective

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All undergraduates must complete two designated writing credit (W) courses, at least one of which must be in the student's major or minor.

### Major Requirements (24 Credit Hours)

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#### Nursing RN To BSN Major Core (6 Courses, 24 Hours)

- A. 24 Credit hours: NU 450, NU 451, NU 452, NU 453, NU 454, NU 455

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## Minor Requirements (0 - Credit Hours)

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A minor is not required for this degree program

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## Additional Information

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### RN To BSN And RN To BSN/MSN Pathways For Associate Degree And Diploma Nurses

The College of Nursing has a Pathway designed especially for registered nurses pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. The RN to BSN Prerequisites consist of eighteen (18) courses, totaling 59 semester Credit hours. These general education courses may be completed at any regionally accredited institution. They must be successfully completed before admission to the Professional Component. It is the policy of the College of Nursing to average grades for all coursework repeated.

1. The Professional Component consists of six (6) fully online nursing courses for a total of 24 Credit hours.
2. These courses must be completed at the University of South Alabama.
3. Upper division nursing courses taken at another institution will not transfer or apply toward the 24 Credit hours required to earn the BSN degree at USA.
4. Students proceed through the six online nursing courses at their desired pace.
5. The Professional Component may be completed in a minimum of two (2) semesters.
6. The Professional Component must be completed within five (5) years of beginning the BSN curriculum.
7. Thirty credit hours of nursing credit are awarded the semester students graduate.
8. Nine credit hours are applied as residential credit during the final semester of the pathway.

### Admission Criteria For RN-BSN Pathways

1. Citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States of America.
2. Completion of an accredited diploma or associate degree in nursing and a current registered nurse licensure with no restriction. Restrictions include participation in voluntary discipline programs.
3. Complete all eighteen (18) required pre-requisite courses at a regionally accredited school. These 59 Credit hours of general education courses are in addition to the nursing courses completed to become a Registered Nurse.
4. Minimum grade of "C" in all pre-requisite courses.
5. RN-BSN Pathway: Minimum GPA of 2.5 on all prerequisites courses and Minimum University GPA of 2.0.
6. RN-BSN/MSN Pathway: Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all academic course work completed at all institutions, including repeated courses. And a Minimum University GPA of 3.0.

### Application Procedures

RN to BSN and RN to BSN/MSN applicants are required to complete a primary application in Nursing CAS at [www.Nursingcas.org](http://www.Nursingcas.org), as well as a supplemental application available on the College of Nursing's website. Students who drop out of the program for three or more consecutive semesters must apply for readmission through the Office of the Admission. Readmission is not automatic.

### Admission Procedures For RN-BSN Pathway

1. Current registered nurse licensure with no restrictions. Nurses with any restrictions on their license, including participation in a voluntary disciplinary alternative program, cannot be admitted.
2. Completion of Primary and Supplemental Applications:
  - a. Primary Application submitted through Nursing Centralized Application System (NursingCAS) at [www.NursingCAS.org](http://www.NursingCAS.org). Official transcripts of all college and university studies, regardless of the outcome of enrollment, must be sent directly from the home institution to the NursingCAS. These documents become the property of the NursingCAS and will not be returned to the applicant. Applicants are responsible for any fees required by NursingCAS for their services.
  - b. Supplemental Application submitted online at [https://secure.touchnet.net/C21704\\_ustores/web/store\\_main.jsp?STOREID=48&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.net/C21704_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=48&SINGLESTORE=true). This application requires a non-refundable processing fee of \$50.00. Application can be submitted via credit or debit card. There is a \$20.00 fee for non-sufficient funds.
3. Degrees must be from a regionally accredited institution.
4. Submission of Health Data forms and evidence of health insurance required upon admission.
5. Admission will be contingent on a negative drug screen and results of acceptable background check.

6. Students are responsible for all costs related to monitoring/proctoring tests and identity authentication when required by a course.

### **Application Deadline**

Fall Semester Deadline is March 15

Spring Semester Deadline is July 15

Summer Semester Deadline is January 15

The deadlines for admission to RN-BSN program are rolling. We will accept applications past the stated deadline for the RN-BSN and RN-BSN/MSN pathways.

### **Academic Progression Policy For RN-BSN**

The University of South Alabama College of Nursing will recommend for promotion only those students who, in the judgment of the faculty, satisfy the requirements of emotional and physical health, conduct, scholastic achievement, and aptitude for nursing.

1. In accordance with University policy, students may not use the Grade Replacement Policy to replace professional nursing courses.
2. A grade of "C" or higher is required for all professional nursing courses. A student may repeat only one nursing course in the curriculum. A second "D", "F", or "U" will result in an academic dismissal from the nursing program.
3. A minimum GPA of 2.0 at the University of South Alabama is required to continue in the program and for graduation.
4. Failure to show good ethical and moral character including but not limited to any of the following may result in dismissal from the program. (a) Conviction of a crime, (b) disciplinary action against a nursing license in Alabama or any other state, (c) positive drug screen, (d) adverse background check, or (e) disruptive behavior including online behavior. All students must notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Dean of the College of Nursing immediately or no later than 48 hours of any of the above stated incidents.
5. All students must notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Dean of the College of Nursing immediately or no later than 48 hours following an arrest. Failure to report an arrest may result in removal from the program.
6. All students are subject to testing for controlled substances and must submit to random drug testing as requested. A positive test or refusal to submit to testing will result in removal from the program.
7. All students are subject to a background check and must submit to additional background checks as requested. An adverse finding or refusal to submit to testing will result in removal from the program.
8. Students must complete the RN-BSN program with 5 years. If a student's progression is interrupted for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Office of Student Services.

### **Graduation**

RN-BSN students who will complete all BSN degree requirements are required to apply for graduation by the application deadline established by the Registrar's Office. Deadlines for each semester application are located on the Registrar's website at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/registrar/commencement/index.html>.

### **RN-BSN Students May Continue To MSN Program**

Students who have completed the RN-BSN program at the University of South Alabama may continue on to pursue their MSN degree at the University. Once the RN-BSN student applies to graduate with their BSN degree, they may apply for admission to start the MSN program after graduation.

Students in this pathway are guaranteed seats in non-Nurse Practitioner tracks upon successful completion of the BSN component of the pathway. Students may pursue the following specialties toward the completion of their MSN degree: Informatics, Nursing Administration, Clinical Nurse Leader, or Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult/Gerontological Nursing. Students who wish to pursue nurse practitioner preparation must obtain a minimum of 2 years of clinical experience before beginning clinical nurse practitioner specialty courses and have a competitive overall undergraduate GPA to compete for a seat in the NP specialty they select. Students are admitted to a specialty track and may not change their track without permission. Students must be in good standing with all academic institutions/nursing programs that they have attended in order to be admitted to the MSN program. Courses for the specialty component of the curriculum are offered on-line. Clinical requirements are completed in faculty-facilitated preceptorships. Curriculum for all MSN specialties are located in the Graduate section under Master of Science in Nursing.

## Admission To Graduate Program

Upon satisfactory completion of the BSN degree the RN-BSN/MSN student will contact the Graduate Advisors at [congradapp@southalabama.edu](mailto:congradapp@southalabama.edu) for additional information regarding the Supplemental Application needed for admission as a graduate student to continue through the MSN Degree program. Applicants must meet the admission requirements for the MSN program to take these courses. Courses meet MSN degree requirements only if completed within five years of MSN graduation.

## Academic Progression Policy

RN-BSN/MSN Students follow the Academic Progression Policy for the RN-BSN program while completing the BSN degree, then they will follow the Academic Progression Policy for the MSN program while in the second portion of the program.

## Program Completion Requirements

Students in the RN-BSN/MSN pathway will graduate with both BSN and MSN degrees. Deadlines for each semester application are located on the Registrar's website at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/registrar/commencement/index.html>

# Department Information

College of Nursing Administrative Staff		(251) 445-9400
Dean	Heather Hall	
Associate Dean for Research Faculty Development, and Evaluation	Sharon Fruh	
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Leigh Minchew	
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs	Shanda Scott	
Director of Clinical Affairs	Emily Bentley	
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Shanda Scott	
Director of the DNP Program	Casey Elkins	
Director of Special Projects & Evaluation	Rebecca Graves	
Professors	C. Dolan, S. Fruh, J. Gunn, H. Hall, J. Harris, M. Jacobs, R. Lawson, S. Rider, E. VandeWaa	
Associate Professors	K. Bydalek, C. Elkins, R. Graves, K. Hamilton, L. Hammonds, T. Harlan, T. Huey, P. Johnson, S. Lawrence, C. Lewis, A. Marass, K. McCoy, T. McMullan, L. Minchew, C. Myers, M. Nadler, J. Pittman, B. Riley, D. Swanzy, K. Williams, S. Williams, T. Wright	
Assistant Professors	A. Adams, J. Anderson, M. Baker, C. Baughn, E. Bentley, M. Bolton, A. Bowman, S. Brand, H. Breazeale, T. Brown, C. Butler, L. Byrd, A. A. Campbell, A. Calvert Campbell, K. Cheshire, D. Copeland, L. Dailey, A. Davis, S. Davis, W. Davis, N. Dixon, J. Ferry, A. Gilligan, M. Guy, C. Haboush, S. Harlan, S. Harris, H. Horton, P. Huffman, D. Hutto, C. Jackson, B. Johnson, P. Johnson, L. Jones, K. Jordan, M. Korn, B. Lang, A. Lewis, S. Lewis, J. Lollar, C. Lynch, C. McCarter, K. McMurtrey, T. Meyer, K. Miller, S. Montgomery, E. Moore, L. Moore, J. A. Otts, K. Pancione, T. Platt, W. Powell, D. Reed, S. Rudolf, S. Scott, T. Sikes-Doggett, K. Stauter, W. Stuart, T. Sturm, R. Thomas, C. Thompson-Ferrell, M. Thread, A. Townsend, N. Turnham, C. Williamitis, B. Woodmansee, A. Younce	
Research Assistant Professors	Candice Selwyn	

Senior Instructors	J. Cockrell, M. Meyer
Instructors	K. Cooper, L. Emley, A. Holley, S. James, R. Johnson, J. Ladnier, B. Mosley, K. Norris, C. Pierce, K. Sherpe, C. Taylor, B. Urquhart, S. Waweru, E. Woods
Department Chair, Adult Health Nursing	Theresa Wright
Department Chair, Community/Mental Health Nursing	Todd Harlan
Department Chair, Maternal/Child Health Nursing	Tricia Huey
Director, Academic Advising	Mary Phillips
Academic Advisors	Jennifer Bouvier, Kristen Dykes, Katelyn Foster, Leigh Holland, Camry McCants, Brenda Mosley, Kristyn Seawell, Bailey Smith, Suzan Williams
Academic Records Specialists	Lisa Brock, Vickie Perkins
Clinical Placement Advising and Assessment Coordinator	Kimberly McLean-Mundy
Clinical Affiliation Coordinators	Elizabeth Collier, Shari Lord, Yolanda Mack

#### College of Nursing website

<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/>

The College of Nursing is dedicated to the education of professional nurses who provide the highest quality health care to the communities they serve. The practice of nursing is both an art and a science; the focus of nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems.

The College of Nursing has two locations, one is on the USA main campus, and the other is on the USA Baldwin County campus in downtown Fairhope. The resources of the University, the USA Hospitals and clinics, and the numerous clinical agencies provide excellent opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills essential for professional nursing.

### Mission

The mission of the College of Nursing is to provide quality innovative educational programs to a diverse student body, to participate in research and scholarly activities, and to provide service to the University, the profession, and the public. The College accomplishes this by providing a caring, engaging environment for the empowerment of student learning potential, the professional development of faculty, and the promotion of the nursing profession.

### Goals

1. Cultivate a caring, innovative, and engaging environment to facilitate teaching, learning, scholarship, and service.
2. Deliver innovative quality nursing programs that meet the needs of a diverse student body and other communities of interest.
3. Promote the discovery, communication, and preservation of knowledge through scholarly activities and leadership.
4. Provide service to the University, the profession, and the public.
5. Develop community partnerships to promote nursing and the enhancement of the health care delivery system using interprofessional approaches.

### Accreditation

The baccalaureate program is approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and the baccalaureate, master's program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program and post-graduate APRN certificate programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education:

655 K Street, NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC  
20001

P: (202) 887-6791

F: (202) 887-8476

## **Student Responsibility**

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While the University of South Alabama will endeavor to provide timely and accurate advisement, it is the responsibility of the student to know and satisfy the degree requirements of the academic program, to be aware of the University calendar, <http://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/index.html> and to understand and comply with University academic policies and procedures.

## **Degrees Offered**

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The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

## **Certificates Offered**

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Post-Graduate Certificates are awarded to students completing planned programs of study in a nursing specialty area and subspecialty areas.