Pre-Licensure BSN Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the Pre-Licensure BSN degree program and the RN to BSN degree program?

The Pre-Licensure BSN degree program is for students who do not already have an associate’s degree (ADN) or a diploma in nursing, and do not already have an RN license. The RN to BSN program is for students who do have an associate’s degree (ADN) or a diploma in nursing, already have an RN license, and would like to complete their BSN degree.

What is the difference between pre-clinical and clinical?

Pre-clinical refers to the portion of the nursing major when students are taking their general education/prerequisite courses. Clinical refers to the portion of the nursing major when students are taking the actual nursing coursework.

Pre-clinical admission is not competitive; meaning, we have no cap on the number of pre-clinical students we can admit. As long as students meet our minimum admission criteria, they can attend UMSL as a pre-clinical student. Clinical admission, however, is competitive; meaning, we have a limited number of students we can admit, and meeting the minimum clinical admission criteria does not guarantee that a student will earn a space. Clinical applicants are ranked against one another according to the GPA requirements for the BSN Option for which they are applying.

Pre-clinical admission is the first step in the admission process for all students—even those who are nearing the completion of their general education coursework at another institution and are applying to go straight into the clinical track. Admission as a pre-clinical student does not guarantee admission into clinicals, unless a student is admitted to the Full-Time Traditional Option as a first-time freshman under the guaranteed clinical admission criteria.

What is the difference between the various Pre-Licensure BSN Options?

The main difference between the different Pre-Licensure BSN Options is the amount of time in which it will take you to complete the nursing coursework after your general education/prerequisite coursework is completed.

The clinical track of the Full-Time Traditional Option includes 5 full academic semesters (Spring and Fall only, with no clinical coursework over the Summer term), for a total of approximately 2 ½ years.

The clinical track of the Part-Time Traditional Option includes 7 full academic semesters, as well as 3 Summer terms, for a total of 3 ½ years. Classes, labs and clinicals for this option take place in the evenings and on weekends.

The clinical track of the Accelerated Option includes 2 Summer terms and 2 full academic semesters, for a total of 15 months.
In addition to the length of time that each option takes, the admission criteria, the number of students we admit, and how often we admit students to each option also varies.

**What are the minimum admission criteria for your Pre-Licensure BSN Options?**

The admission criteria varies, according to which Option you are interested in (i.e. Traditional vs. Accelerated), as well as whether you are seeking admission as a first-time-freshman or a transfer student. The minimum admission criteria for each program may be found at the following portions of our website:

- [Traditional](#)
- [Accelerated](#)

**Do you require applicants to take a Dosage Calculation Test before being admitted?**

No, we do not require applicants to take a Dosage Calculation Test before being admitted. Instead, students who earn a clinical space in any of our Pre-Licensure BSN Options will learn dosage calculations as part of their clinical coursework.

**What are the general education/prerequisite courses for the Pre-Licensure BSN degree program? Do they differ between Traditional and Accelerated?**

The general education/prerequisite requirements do vary slightly for the different Pre-Licensure BSN Options. You may find a listing of the current requirements at the following portions of our website (please note that course requirements and curriculum are subject to change):

- [Traditional](#)
- [Accelerated](#)

**Do I have to take my general education/prerequisite coursework at UMSL?**

No, you do not have to take the general education/prerequisite coursework at UMSL. However, first-time freshmen who take their general education coursework at UMSL will not have to compete for a clinical space in the Full-Time Traditional Option if they are admitted under the guaranteed clinical admission criteria. So there is an incentive for these students to take their general education coursework at UMSL, since they will qualify for a guaranteed clinical space.

Students who are competing for a clinical space may take their general education coursework either at UMSL or at another institution, if they so choose. It is highly recommended that students who choose to take their general education coursework elsewhere meet with an academic advisor at UMSL's College of Nursing to confirm that they are taking courses that will properly transfer to fulfill our requirements.
During what semesters do you admit students to each Pre-Licensure BSN Option?

We admit students to the Full-Time Traditional Option every Spring and Fall; to the Part-Time Traditional Option every Fall; and to the Accelerated Option every Summer.

How many clinical students do you admit each semester?

We admit 80 students every Spring and 48 students every Fall into the Full-Time Traditional Option. For the Part-Time Traditional Option, we admit 32 students every Fall. And we admit 48 students to the Accelerated Option every Summer.

What is the deadline to apply?

There is no application deadline for pre-clinical admission. Clinical application deadlines are as follows:

- **Full-Time Traditional Option**
  - Fall Enrollment: February 1
  - Spring Enrollment: October 1
- **Part-Time Traditional Option**
  - Fall Enrollment: February 15
- **Accelerated Option**
  - Summer Enrollment: September 15

Do I need to have all of my general education/prerequisite coursework completed before I can apply to the clinical portion of any of the Pre-Licensure BSN Options?

Your general education/prerequisite courses do not need to be finished before you can apply; however, they must be completed before you may enroll (if you are offered a clinical space). Most students apply to clinicals while they are in their final semester of pre-clinical coursework. In other words, general education courses may be in progress at the time of application; if we do offer you a clinical space, though, it is contingent upon you completing the rest of the general education courses (with a satisfactory grade) before you would start in the clinical portion of the program.

Please note that, while it is acceptable for students to have general education courses in progress at the time of application, applicants must meet the minimum GPA requirements at the time of application in order to be considered for clinical admission. Additionally, students who are applying to the clinical track of the Traditional Option (either full-time or part-time) for Spring 2017 or sooner and do not have all four of their major science courses (Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology I, Anatomy & Physiology II and Microbiology) completed before the application deadline may have a lesser chance of earning a clinical space. Students who are applying to the clinical track for Fall 2017 or later are not impacted. Please contact an advisor at the College of Nursing for details.
Do you have a wait list?

We do not use a wait list the way that some other nursing schools do. Instead, we have competitive admission. This means that there are minimum criteria that students must meet simply to apply to clinicals. However, meeting these criteria does not necessarily guarantee that you will earn a space (unless you are admitted to the Full-Time Traditional Option as a first-time freshman with a guaranteed clinical space). We offer spaces to the top applicants for each admit term according to their GPAs; the higher GPA a student has, the better chance he/she has of earning a space. However, there are no guarantees that a student will earn a space, even if he/she meets our minimum admission criteria, since it all depends upon how they compare to the rest of the applicant pool.

We do use a wait list for each admit term, since we always have more applicants than we do spaces, and since not all of the top applicants will end up accepting their spaces for one reason or another. If one of the top applicants declines his/her space, we offer it to the first person on the wait list. We continue to work our way down the list until all of the spaces have been accepted. Once that happens, and the semester begins, the wait list goes away; we do not carry it over to the next semester. Therefore, it is possible for a student to meet our minimum qualifications for clinical admission, but not be offered a space in our program. Students who are waitlisted, but are not offered a space from the wait list, must reapply for future semesters if they wish to be considered for admission again.

One of the most appealing things about our admission process is that we always have spaces available for the upcoming term (there is no 2-year wait list); the downside, though, is that there is no guarantee of admission.

What are my chances of earning a space in the Pre-Licensure BSN program?

The one and only way for students to be guaranteed a space in our program is if they come to UMSL as a first-time freshman and meet the guaranteed clinical admission criteria. These students will earn a guaranteed clinical space in the Full-Time Traditional BSN Option. All other applicants to the Traditional Option (both full-time and part-time), and all applicants to the Accelerated Option, must compete for a space. We have no way of predicting how an applicant will compare to the rest of the applicant pool for the semester for which they are applying. However, we do know that clinical admission is very competitive, and that we generally have between 3-5 qualified applicants per space each semester.

Can I apply to multiple Pre-Licensure BSN Options?

Yes, applicants may apply to multiple Pre-Licensure BSN Options (and are often encouraged to do so). Students who choose to apply to multiple options must be aware, though, of the differences between each option with regards to admit terms, general education course requirements, GPA requirements, and application deadlines. Just because an applicant meets the minimum admission criteria for one option, this does not mean that the applicant automatically qualifies for the other options as well.

If an applicant chooses to apply to multiple Pre-Licensure BSN Options, he/she must submit a separate clinical application for each option. Just because an applicant submits a clinical application for

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one option, this does not mean that he/she will automatically be considered for admission to the other options as well.

Although applicants must submit separate clinical applications for each Pre-Licensure BSN Option to which they choose to apply, they do not necessarily need to apply to the university multiple times. An applicant's admission to the University of Missouri-St. Louis is good for 3 consecutive terms (Fall, Spring and Summer). So, for example, if a student applies for and is admitted to a Spring semester, his/her admission to the university is good for that Spring and the following Summer and Fall. If the student does not enroll in the Spring semester, but wants to then enroll for either the Summer term or Fall semester, he/she would not need to reapply to the university (they would, however, need to submit another clinical application for the appropriate BSN Option by the appropriate clinical application deadline). If more than 3 terms passes between the applicant's original admission to the university, and his/her planned term of enrollment, then he/she would have to apply for readmission to the university. Using the same example, if a student applies for and is admitted to a Spring semester, but does not enroll at UMSL that Spring, Summer or Fall, he/she would then have to apply for readmission to the university if he/she plans to enroll in classes the next Spring or later.

If, during this time, the applicant is still pursuing coursework at an institution other than the University of Missouri-St. Louis, he/she must continue to send official updated transcripts to UMSL's Office of Admissions, so that we have an updated, official account of their academic records.

**If I'm admitted to the clinical track of one Pre-Licensure BSN Option, can I later switch to a different Option?**

No. Although a student may apply to multiple Pre-Licensure BSN Options, once he/she starts taking clinical coursework in one option, he/she cannot switch to another option.

**I'm interested in pursuing a BSN degree from UMSL, but I'm not sure whether or not I qualify. Is there a way for me to find out whether or not I even qualify for any of your Pre-Licensure BSN Options before I actually apply?**

Whenever possible, we encourage prospective students to meet with us prior to starting the application process. There are a variety of opportunities throughout the year for prospective students to learn more about our programs:

**BSN Preview Day**

This event takes place once a year, typically on a Saturday towards the end of January. It is an opportunity for prospective students to learn about our admission criteria; view our lab facilities; speak to our Nursing faculty, staff and current students; and see what it's like to take part in an actual Nursing class—complete with a hands-on activity utilizing our patient simulation equipment. Please keep an eye on our website for updated information on BSN Preview Day (information is usually posted to the website in the Fall).
**UMSL Day**

This campus-wide event takes place twice a year, in March and November. A departmental fair gives you the opportunity to learn about all of the degree programs UMSL has to offer, while the individual academic sessions will include detailed presentations on each program (including Nursing). Additional information is available regarding financial aid, residential life and housing, multicultural relations, and more! Campus bus tours are also offered (please note that the Nursing facilities are not included in the UMSL Day tours). For more information about UMSL Day, click here.

**BSN Info Sessions**

The College of Nursing offers group information sessions throughout the semester for prospective students to learn more about our programs and admission criteria. Each session will begin with an overview of our three Pre-Licensure BSN Options (Full-Time Traditional, Part-Time Traditional and Accelerated). Students who wish to meet individually with a representative of the college in order to have their transcripts evaluated may do so afterwards. Please click here for more information and for the dates of upcoming sessions.

**Students From Out-Of-Town**

If you do not live in the St. Louis area, or cannot attend one of the above in-person options, you may arrange for an advisor to review your transcripts and communicate back-and-forth via email regarding your eligibility. Simply send an email to nursing@umsl.edu, saying that you would like to have your transcripts evaluated by an advisor, but are unable to attend an in-person meeting. Your email will be forwarded to our Admissions Representative or one of our Academic Advisors, who will then contact you with further instructions.

**What is the cost of your program?**

The cost of each BSN Options varies. You may find estimated costs for each option at the following portions of our website:

- [Traditional Full-Time](#)
- [Traditional Part-Time](#)
- [Accelerated](#)

Please note that the estimated costs found on our website are based on *current* tuition and fees, which are subject to change from one academic year to the next.
What kind of scholarships/financial aid is available?

Scholarships that are offered through UMSL's College of Nursing are restricted to undergraduate students who have already been admitted to the clinical portion of one of our BSN Options or graduate students. Information can be found on the Scholarships section of our website.

Additional scholarship and financial aid information can be found on the website for UMSL's Office of Financial Aid.

How do I apply?

All students must be admitted to the University of Missouri- St. Louis before they can be considered for admission into the College of Nursing.

First-time freshmen and pre-clinical transfer students need only to apply to the university (the clinical application will come later for these students). You may apply to the university online through the Office of Admissions. Follow the instructions on that website regarding the university application fee and transcripts. Once you are admitted to the university, and begin taking pre-clinical coursework, your academic advisor will make sure you are aware of how to proceed with applying to clinicals when the time comes.

Transfer students who have already completed all of their general education coursework (or are currently in their final semester of general education coursework) and would like to apply to go straight into clinicals must apply to the university as well as the College of Nursing. Follow the same steps listed above for first-time-freshmen and pre-clinical transfer students. In addition, you must submit a clinical application to the College of Nursing. Click here for detailed instructions.

I am currently enrolled (or was previously enrolled) in an RN program at another school, but I do not plan to finish that school's program. I am interested in transferring to UMSL to complete my BSN. Do you accept transfer students from other Nursing schools, and will my Nursing coursework transfer?

Students who have previously been enrolled in the clinical track of another nursing school's RN program must be able to provide a letter of good standing from their previous nursing school. Students who have been dismissed from another nursing school's RN program, or did not leave in good standing, are ineligible for admission to the clinical track of UMSL's Pre-Licensure BSN Options.

Effective Fall 2015, we do not accept transfer Nursing courses from other institutions. Students who have previously been enrolled in the clinical track of another nursing school must apply competitively to start from the beginning of UMSL’s program (after providing a letter of good standing).

If you were enrolled as a preclinical student at another institution, you do not need to provide a letter of good standing.
What if I don’t want to submit some of my previous college transcripts, because I didn’t do very well in those courses?

For our admissions purposes, we calculate applicants' GPAs based on all attempts of all transferable undergraduate courses. Applicants do not have the option to pick and choose which transcripts they would like to submit; they must submit transcripts from all previously attended institutions. It is the policy of both the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the College of Nursing to wait until all transcripts have been received until an admission decision can be made. Students who do not list a complete academic history on their university application and do not have official transcripts from all previously attended institutions sent to UMSL's Office of Admissions can have their admission to both the University and the College of Nursing revoked.

I have college coursework from a country outside of the United States. Do I have to submit these transcripts as well?

Yes, all undergraduate coursework, including foreign coursework, will be taken into consideration for admission purposes. Since we calculate applicants' GPAs based on all attempts of all transferable courses, we must also evaluate international coursework. We understand that it can be difficult to obtain international transcripts, course descriptions, etc.; however, we are mandated by the Missouri State Board of Nursing to treat all of our applicants the same with regards to our admission process. Therefore, foreign coursework must also be taken into consideration. Please note that the international admission process can be quite time-consuming. It is recommended that applicants with international coursework should start the process at least one semester before their planned enrollment term. Please click here, and follow the instructions for submitting the required documents. If you have any questions about this process, please contact UMSL’s Office of International Student and Scholars Services.

Do I need to submit a resume or letters of recommendation/references? Will there be an admission interview?

No, you do not need to submit a resume or any letters of recommendations/references; nor will there be an interview. Applicants’ GPAs are the one and only determinant as to whether or not they will earn a clinical space.