Alternative Planning for Pre-Nursing Students

What are my options?

Reapply to the Pre-Licensure Program

Students who elect to reapply should consider the following questions:

- Would my Core GPA be competitive for the next application round?
- Am I able to improve my Core GPA, HESI or interview score to be competitive?
- Am I financially prepared to push back graduation a semester, year or longer?

Alternative Nursing Program Planning

Due to the competitive nature of nursing, students can expand their admission opportunities by applying to more than one nursing program. Advanced planning is essential to complete the required coursework, admission criteria and program deadlines. There are different pathways to becoming an RN. Please review the backside to learn more about these opportunities and determine your best fit.

When researching alternative nursing programs, your first resource is the program website. In addition, you may need to connect with the program advisor for specific questions and a transcript evaluation. When researching multiple nursing programs, it is important to be detail orientated and organized as each program will differ.

Researching alternative nursing programs:

- Visit the State Board of Nursing website for a complete list of the professional nursing programs.
- Does the program offer a Bachelor’s or Associate Degree? Is the program accredited by CCNE or ACEN?
- What are the application criteria and admission requirements?
- What pre-requisites have you completed? What courses remain? Confirm with alternative program.
- Can you complete any remaining pre-requisites at MNSU?
- How is the GPA calculated for the program?
- Do requirements include an entrance exam, essay, interview, volunteer hours or shadowing experience?
- Are you required to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)?
- Does the program grant preference to students who began at their institution?
- What are the application deadlines and timeline for program admission and graduation?
- How many students apply vs. how many students are accepted each application period?
- What information is used to select the admitted students?
- What does it take to be accepted to this program? Average GPA, points, test scores etc.
- Based upon your academic record, would you be a competitive applicant for this program?
- In addition to tuition and fees, what other out of pocket expenses can you expect?

Major Exploration, Choosing and Changing

MNSU offers more than 130 undergraduate programs. Exploring these opportunities, and how they may align with your interests, skills, coursework and careers goals are great options to consider.

- Refer to the Major Exploration for Pre-Nursing Students document for next steps.
Bachelor’s Degree Nursing Programs
These rigorous programs prepare graduates to practice across all health care settings and assume the widest variety of RN roles. These programs combine the clinical and technical skills of nursing with coursework in the physical and social sciences, nursing research, public and community health, nursing management and the humanities. A Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing is the preferred qualification for today’s employers, but may be achieved through alternative pathways.

Associate Degree Nursing Programs
These programs are typically offered in community colleges and provide an efficient, economical pathway to becoming an RN. Graduates are prepared with the clinical competence and technical proficiency needed to practice in multiple settings. Students who earn their ADN can subsequently earn their Bachelor’s Degree in an RN-BS Completion Program. Today’s employers not only prefer Bachelor’s prepared RNs, but often require it to secure long term employment.

RN Completion Programs
These programs provide a bridge for Associate Degree RN’s to earn their Baccalaureate Degree. RN Completion programs build on previous learning, prepare nurses for higher level practice, and provide RNs with the education necessary to advance their careers.

MNSU offers a flexible 100% online RN Baccalaureate Completion Program for 30 major credits. Classes are available every fall, spring and summer semester in both 8-week and 16-week formats.

The Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Education (MANE) is a collection of 7 community colleges and Metropolitan State University. This curriculum allows students to transition from an ADN program to a Bachelor’s degree through hybrid course offerings in 3 additional semesters (fall and spring only).

Accelerated Nursing Programs
These programs offer the quickest route to the RN licensure for students who already hold a bachelor’s degree in a non-nursing field of study. These programs are rigorous and time-intensive. Most usually require 12-18 months to complete. This may not include pre-requisite coursework. Completion of these programs may lead to an additional bachelor’s degree, or a master’s degree in nursing.

All pathways require graduates to pass the NCLEX-RN examination to become a registered nurse (RN).