RN-B.S. in Nursing – Application Information

NIU’s RN-BS in Nursing Program is designed to award credit to registered nurses for their recent education and previous learning experiences in the field of nursing. The program is fully accredited and requires 28 credit hours of NIU nursing course work. Prospective students can find detailed information about tuition and fees at [http://www.niu.edu/bursar/](http://www.niu.edu/bursar/) or use the Bursar’s Cost Estimator at [http://www.niu.edu/bursar/tuition/estimator.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/bursar/tuition/estimator.shtml)

Any unmet general education, nursing pre-requisite and/or elective course work required for the degree may be completed at an IL community college. Students who have earned a BA/BS from an accredited institution in the U.S. or have earned an Associate of Art or an Associates of Science (in addition to the Associates of Applied Science in Nursing) from an Illinois community college will have all general education requirements met. General education, prerequisite and elective courses do **not** need to be completed prior to starting the nursing courses.

Time until degree varies among students depending on transfer course work and the number of classes taken per semester. Although the program may be completed in one year, the typical student is working and elects to take a lighter semester course load, finishing in 2-3 years.

For more personalized information, it is best to schedule an advising appointment with the RN-BS Program Advisor. This can be a phone appointment if that would be more convenient. To schedule an advising appointment, please call 815-753-6557. You may schedule time with the nursing advisor at any point in the application process and beyond.

**The Application Process**

1. After deciding on a start date, you should **apply to NIU at [http://www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml)** The NIU admission process typically takes 4-6 weeks. Early application is strongly encouraged, especially for students planning to take more than one course in the first semester. Application deadlines are available at [http://www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/Admissions/index.shtml)

   You may contact the NIU Admissions Office at 815-753-0446 with any questions. The online application will notify you of the next steps
   
   a. Send all official post-secondary transcripts.
   b. Submit a current copy of your Illinois RN license*
   c. Pay the $40 application fee (Visa and MasterCard are accepted)

   Keep in mind that **off-campus** students are NOT required to attend an NIU on-campus orientation session. If you receive information about the NIU orientation program you are welcome to attend, but it is not required. Nursing students will have a nursing specific orientation called the **Nursing Program Overview**. This
is available on Blackboard under the School of Nursing Community. You will have access to Blackboard after you register for your first nursing class. **After being notified that you have been admitted to NIU be sure to confirm your acceptance by logging into MyNIU >> Student Center, and clicking “accept admission”.**

2. **Apply to Nursing** --Please email Merlynette Griffin, Academic Advising Coordinator, at mgriffin2@niu.edu to let her know once you have been admitted to NIU and notify her of your intended start date. This email will trigger the School of Nursing to review your file.

3. Your file will then be reviewed by our Nursing Advisor and the Program Coordinator. If accepted to the nursing program, students will receive a nursing acceptance letter by mail.

4. Schedule an Advising and Tracking Appointment with Merlynette by calling 815-753-6557. **Upon receiving your nursing admission letter, you are ready to schedule your appointment.** This appointment can be conducted over the phone or face to face and typically takes between 20-45 minutes. If you would prefer a face to face advising/ tracking appointment, these can be scheduled Monday-Friday in DeKalb.

5. **Register for nursing classes!** After an admitted student has had their tracking appointment, they are ready to register. Registration for summer and fall semesters begins in April and registration for spring semester begins in November.

**The Courses**

Orientation to the program: The Nursing Program Overview is offered online and it must be completed at the beginning of your first course in the program. It is accessible via Blackboard. You will have access to blackboard once you register for your first class.

NURS 347 is required first. There is an online section offered every fall and spring semester. Fall and spring semesters are each 16 weeks in length for this course.

NURS 308 must be taken prior to NURS 408.

NURS 463 is typically the one of the last courses taken in the program. NURS 312, 347, 419, and 432 must be completed prior to taking 463.

All RN-B.S. courses are online. Many of the RN-BS courses are offered face to face in DeKalb for students who prefer the in person format.

Your courses will be mapped out, or “tracked”, during your advising/tracking appointment.

*If you don’t have your RN license yet you may still apply. It will be important to touch base with Amber Davis, RN-B.S. Program Coordinator, about your situation. Although you can be provisionally admitted to NIU without your RN license you cannot be officially admitted to nursing until you can provide proof that you’ve passed NCLEX. Students are eligible to take up to 6 credit hours or nursing courses prior to passing NCLEX but will not be permitted to take any additional nursing classes until officially admitted to nursing.*