



Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

Registered nurses typically do the following:

- Record patients' medical histories and symptoms
- Administer patients' medicines and treatments
- Set up plans for patients' care or contribute to existing plans
- Observe patients and record observations
- Consult with doctors and other healthcare professionals
- Operate and monitor medical equipment
- Help perform diagnostic tests and analyze results
- Teach patients and their families how to manage illnesses or injuries
- Explain what to do at home after treatment

Most registered nurses work as part of a team with physicians and other healthcare specialists. Some registered nurses oversee licensed practical nurses, nursing assistants, and home health aides. Registered nurses' duties and titles often depend on where they work and the patients they work with. They can focus in the following areas or with specific patient populations:

- A specific health condition, such as a diabetes management nurse who helps patients with diabetes or an oncology nurse who helps cancer patients
- A specific part of the body, such as a dermatology nurse working with patients who have skin problems
- A specific group of people, such as a geriatric nurse who works with the elderly or a pediatric nurse who works with children and teens
- A specific workplace, such as an emergency or trauma nurse who works in a hospital or stand-alone emergency department or a school nurse working in an elementary, middle, or high school
- Some registered nurses combine one or more of these specific areas. For example, a pediatric oncology nurse works with children and teens who have cancer.
- Addiction nurses care for patients who need help to overcome addictions to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and other substances.
- Cardiovascular nurses care for patients with heart disease and people who have had heart surgery.
- Critical care nurses work in intensive care units in hospitals, providing care to patients with serious, complex, and acute illnesses and injuries that need very close monitoring and treatment.
- Genetics nurses provide screening, counseling, and treatment of patients with genetic disorders, such as cystic fibrosis.
- Neonatology nurses take care of newborn babies.
- Nephrology nurses care for patients who have kidney-related health issues stemming from diabetes, high blood pressure, substance abuse, or other causes.
- Rehabilitation nurses care for patients with temporary or permanent disabilities.

Some nurses have jobs in which they do not work directly with patients, but they must still have an active registered nurse license. For example, they may work as nurse educators, healthcare consultants, public policy advisors, researchers, hospital administrators, salespeople for pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, or as medical writers and editors.

Registered nurses may work to promote general health, by educating the public on warning signs and symptoms of disease. They may also run general health screenings or immunization clinics, blood drives, or other outreach programs.

(Occupational Outlook Handbook)

The following two year pre-professional program is based on the requirements for admission to the Nursing Program in the UNMC College of Nursing. A minimum 58 semester hours of pre-nursing courses must be completed. The Nursing Program at UNMC is a four semester program. Students will receive a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN) from UNMC upon completion of the clinical training.

While other nursing programs may have similar pre-requisite courses and requirements, each student is urged to contact the specific school of his or her choice to determine any suggested variations of this pre-professional schedule. Students should realize that gaining admission to a nursing program is highly competitive.

Take all of the following:

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|---------|
| BIOL 211 | Human Microbiology | 4 hours |
| BIOL 225 | Anatomy & Physiology | 4 hours |
| BIOL 226 | Anatomy & Physiology | 4 hours |
| ENG 101 | Introduction to Academic Writing | 3 hours |
| ENG 102 | Academic Writing & Research | 3 hours |
| PE 108 | Introduction to Nutrition | 3 hours |
| MATH 102 | College Algebra | 3 hours |
| PSY 203 | General Psychology | 3 hours |
| SOC 100 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 hours |

Choose one from each of the following course options:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------|
| CHEM 145 | Introduction to Chemistry | 4 hours |
| OR | | |
| CHEM 160 | General Chemistry | 4 hours |
| FAMS 150 | Lifespan Development | 3 hours |
| OR | | |
| PSY 230 | Human Development | 3 hours |

Choose One:

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|---------|
| BIOL 311 | Bioethics | 3 hours |
| PHIL 120 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3 hours |
| PSY 350 | Ethics in Psychology | 3 hours |
| SOWK 172 | Human Service Ethics | 3 hours |

Choose One:

| | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| STAT 235 | Introduction to Statistics for Social Sciences | 3 hours |
| STAT 241 | Elementary Statistics | 3 hours |
| BIOL 305 | Biostatistics | 3 hours |

Choose one from each category below:

Culture/Race/Ethnicity/Gender (see advisor for additional options):

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GEOG 106 | Human Geography | 3 hours |
| HIST 250 | American History | 3 hours |
| HIST 251 | American History | 3 hours |
| SOC 225 | Global Cultures & Diversity | 3 hours |
| SOC 250 | Anthropology | 3 hours |

Family & Human Behavior (see advisor for additional options):

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------|
| FAMS 151 | Human Sexual Behavior | 3 hours |
| FAMS 250 | Infant Development | 3 hours |
| FAMS 351 | Marriage & Family Relationships | 3 hours |
| SOC 430 | Sociology of Family | 3 hours |

Humanities (see advisor for additional options):

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|---------|
| ENG | Literature: | 3 hours |
| ART 100 | Art Structure | 3 hours |
| ART 120 | Drawing I | 3 hours |
| MUS 100 | Music Appreciation | 3 hours |
| SPCH 100 | Fundamentals of Speech | 3 hours |
| THEA 120 | Introduction to Theatre | 3 hours |

Political Science & Social Organization (see advisor for additional options):

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------|
| FAMS 160 | Personal Money Management | 3 hours |
| PSCI 110 | Intro to American Politics | 3 hours |
| PSCI 170 | Democracy as a Political Idea | 3 hours |

Free Electives **3 hours**

Academic Guidelines

While a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA is required for most nursing programs, students who are successful in gaining admission typically have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Each required course must be passed with a grade of “C” or better. A grade of “C-” will not be accepted. UNMC does require a “C+” or higher in all pre-requisites. Students searching for electives outside their major requirements should consider courses from the following areas: biology, chemistry, mathematics, sociology, psychology, business administration, healthcare management, and healthcare economics. See your advisor for suggestions. Students should be aware of prerequisites on all courses and plan their coursework accordingly.

Non-Academic Guidelines

There is no magic formula for acceptance in to professional school. Admission is based on GPA, shadowing and medical experiences, community involvement and volunteerism, leadership qualities, the interview, the essay, and letters of recommendation. Shadowing and medical experiences are of utmost importance. Students should plan to shadow a minimum of 40 hours in their selected profession. Most schools also require an active C.N.A license at the time of application. Health Sciences offers opportunities to meet these non-academic guidelines through the Shadowing Program, the Health Science Club, and volunteer experiences. Research experience is not required, but will be looked upon favorably. Students should plan to be involved in these types of activities and experiences throughout their undergraduate career. Other important non-academic factors include good moral character, excellent interpersonal skills, a deep commitment to healthcare, evidence of leadership potential and service to others.

The Application Process

Students will make application to nursing schools through the Centralized Application Service for Nursing Programs (NursingCAS): <http://www.nursingcas.org>. The centralized application service allows students to fill out one application to apply to multiple schools. Early application is strongly encouraged. Students should make application in the early fall of the calendar year proceeding the year in which they hope to enroll in a nursing program. The application cycle for admission at the UNMC College of Nursing is October 15 – February 1. The student should check with the other schools to which he or she is applying to verify their policies and procedures regarding supplemental applications.

Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation

Letters of evaluation will be required of applicants. Letters from a faculty member, health care practitioner, academic advisor, or employer would be appropriate. Information about the non-academic character of a student would be most useful as academic information is already in the application.

Interviews

Most schools screen applicants with some form of personal interview. The format of the interview may vary depending on the schools to which students are applying.

Criminal Background Checks

Prerequisite for enrollment into any health science professional program or clinical training is consent for an external background check. This check includes, but is not limited to, past criminal offenses and registry information. If there is evidence of arrest for a crime(s), conviction for a crime(s), presence on an abuse registry, or other information which reasonably suggests that patient safety might be compromised, the student will be asked to provide additional information.

Citizenship/International Students

Professional schools in the health sciences vary as to whether they accept non-U.S. citizens. Some schools that do accept non-citizens require a substantial financial commitment up front. Since not all schools accept non-citizens and since the financial commitment of those that do may be substantial, students should thoroughly research and carefully consider such a decision and discuss it with their pre-health advisors early in their undergraduate years.

Websites

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| UNMC Nursing | http://www.unmc.edu/nursing/ |
| UNK Health Sciences | www.unk.edu/healthsciences |

Suggested Sequence of Key Courses

| | Fall | Spring |
|---------------|--|--|
| Year 1 | MATH 102 CHEM 145 or CHEM 160 PSY 203 ENG 101 Humanity Total Hours: 16 | BIOL 211 PSY 230 or FAMS 150 PE 108 ENG 102 Cultural, Race, Ethnicity & Gender Total Hours: 16 |
| Year 2 | BIOL 225 Family & Human Behavior SOC 100 STAT 241 or STAT 235 or BIOL 305 Total Hours: 13 | BIOL 226 Political Science & Social Organization Free Elective/Portal Class BIOL 311, PHIL 120, PSY 350 or SOWK 172 Total Hours: 13 |
| Year 3 | Clinical Training | Clinical Training |
| Year 4 | Clinical Training | Clinical Training |

- Students should be aware of prerequisites for upper level courses and plan accordingly.
- A MATH ACT score of 20 or higher is a pre-requisite for MATH 102.
- A minimum MATH ACT score of 22 or prior completion of College Algebra (MATH 102) or higher is a pre-requisite for CHEM 160.
- Completion of one semester of chemistry is a pre-requisite for BIOL 225.
- Work with advisor on course selection to ensure that one of the categories also fulfills the portal requirement of the UNK General Studies requirements.