

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

NURSING

What can I do with a major in nursing?

Most students who major in nursing plan to work as a nurse in a hospital, clinic, nursing home, or other healthcare setting. Nursing is an attractive career for many students because of the relatively high pay, flexible hours, and opportunity to help people. Alternative career options for someone with a nursing degree include working in healthcare administration, the insurance industry, or as a school nurse. Some nurses will choose to gain further education to become a nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, or to work in health care administration.

What is the academic path to become a nurse?

The academic preparation to become a registered nurse (RN) can take place as part of an associate of applied science degree or a bachelor's degree. Students who want to earn their nursing degree in 2-3 years can plan to apply to the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Seattle Central. These students need to complete a number of prerequisite classes before applying to the program. After completing the associate of applied science degree in nursing, students are prepared to take the necessary exams to apply to become a licensed nurse in the State of Washington.

Students who plan to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree also have multiple academic options. One possibility is to complete an associate of applied science degree in nursing and then apply to RN-BSN completion programs, for example at UW-Bothell or UW-Tacoma, where students who are already registered nurses can complete a bachelor's degree. Another possibility is to earn a transfer associate degree that includes prerequisites for nursing and then transfer to a university to finish the bachelor's degree in nursing. This path should take 4-5 years total. Students who choose the transfer degree path will be eligible to apply to UW-Seattle, Seattle University, and Seattle Pacific University. Students who have completed a bachelor's degree in another field can apply to accelerated BSN programs, which usually take 1-2 years to complete.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in nursing?

Students planning to major in nursing at a baccalaureate institution usually take courses in **anatomy and physiology, microbiology, chemistry, statistics, and psychology, as well as general education requirements** to prepare to transfer. Specific requirements vary according to the transfer university and nursing programs in Washington State are highly competitive, so it is **STRONGLY** recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in nursing often earn the Associate of Arts degree to prepare to transfer to a bachelor of nursing program, although other degrees may be applicable as well. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them. Students who plan to apply to the associate of applied science degree in nursing at Seattle Central should meet with an advisor for the program and take the required prerequisite classes before applying to the program.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Health, Global Studies or Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into

your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Nursing Major

- Nursing programs in Washington State are extremely competitive. Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer. Maintaining a high GPA, finishing all prerequisites before applying, and completing all additional admission requirements – such as volunteer hours – will make you a more competitive applicant.
- Students planning to study nursing will need to take a fairly heavy load of science classes as prerequisites. Check prerequisites for these courses, start early, and make sure to complete any sequences at the same college.
- Many nursing programs require statistics. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to take statistics.
- If you plan to complete a transfer degree and apply to bachelor's programs in nursing, check to make sure your intended transfer university offers the appropriate major. Some universities offer a bachelor's in nursing only for students who have already become registered nurses by earning an associate degree (these programs are called RN-BSN programs).
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your intended transfer university as a guide to selecting classes. If a course is required for graduation and offered at Seattle Central, it may be easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in nursing in Washington?

The following universities offer a bachelor degree in nursing program that students can enter as a junior after earning a transfer associate degree.

Gonzaga University
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University

University of Washington, Seattle
Walla Walla University
Washington State University, Spokane
Washington State University, Tri-Cities

RN-BSN programs are offered at many universities in the state, including Bellevue College, UW-Bothell, and UW-Tacoma.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.