

CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO THE BSN4Y PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (BSN4Y) is designed as a Clinical Immersion model, which means that students are exposed to clinical settings from the very first semester of their freshman year. Students begin their clinical experiences in the skills and simulation laboratories, building upon information they learn in the classroom over the next three years. In their senior year, students are immersed in clinical experiences the entire year. Because of the way that this program is designed, it will take four (4) years to complete the program regardless of whether or not students have prior learning credits that they are transferring in.

Admission Criteria for the BSN program:

Applicants for the BSN4Y program must meet or exceed the Clarion University admission standards and are expected to meet the following additional criteria:

- SAT score of at least 950 or ACT score of at least 18 (math and verbal combined)
- High school or college GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Four units of high school English
- Three units of high school social studies
- Two units of high school science with a related laboratory or the equivalent with a grade of a “C” or better (preferably Biology and Chemistry).
- Two units of high school mathematics (one must be algebra with a grade of “C” or better and one course may be algebra II, trigonometry, geometry, or calculus).

Candidates who do not meet all the high school requirements listed above must take college level courses to meet the requirement(s). Clarion University courses or acceptable transfer courses from other colleges/universities or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) provide acceptable substitutions for the high school requirements. SAT or ACT scores are not required for transfer students or students who have been out of high school for more than 3 years.

Transfer Students:

Students wishing to transfer from another higher education institution into the BSN4Y program must meet all admission criteria as described above. Official transcript(s) must be provided to the Admission's Office. For credits to transfer, a letter grade of a "C" or better is required for all math and science courses. A student is not required to submit high school transcripts if he or she has been out of high school for more than 3 years.

If a student is requesting an evaluation of nursing credits he or she would like to transfer, he or she must apply for admission and then submit the following information to the Department of Nursing, Nurse Administrator/Chair, 840 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214:

- Copies of the course syllabi and topical outline for all nursing courses the student is requesting to transfer. The Chair/Nurse Administrator or faculty will evaluate the transcripts and syllabi to determine if the courses will transfer in as equivalent to a nursing course offered in the BSN4Y program. Whether or not prior nursing courses are accepted will be determined by the Chair/Nurse Administrator and/or faculty after review of the transcripts, syllabi and letter of recommendation. Once the evaluation has been completed, the student will receive notification of which courses have been approved. On occasion, the Chair/Nurse Administrator may determine that a student needs to retake a course that appears similar in the course description but varies in content when the course syllabus and topical outline. Nursing credits are only transferrable if earned from an accredited associate or baccalaureate program **within the preceding two (2) years and if the student received a "B" or higher in the course(s).**
- A letter of reference from the Director of the previous program(s) addressing the applicant's ability to complete a RN program on official letterhead from the program and mailed directly to the Department of Nursing.

Once the evaluation is completed, the student will be notified of whether or not the nursing credits will be accepted. In some circumstances, the student may also be asked to take the NLN Acceleration Challenge Exam and achieve a satisfactory score (70% or higher) for transfer of nursing credits.

Advanced Placement for Licensed Practical Nurses:

After being admitted to Clarion University and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (BSN4Y), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's) may qualify for advanced placement. Advanced placement may be granted to Licensed Practical Nurses based on the Pennsylvania Articulation Model. The model provides education progression for Licensed Practical Nurses from state approved and NLNAC accredited schools to progress to the next educational program without repetition. Up to six life experience credits may be granted for NURS 150, 152, 170 and 172. The following criteria apply to applicants seeking Advanced Placement:

1. All applicants must take the NLN entrance exam for registered nursing students.
2. Applicants who have graduated from an accredited program must meet the following requirements:
 - a. A "C" average or higher upon graduation from Licensed Practical Nursing Program. An official transcript must be provided as evidence.

- b. Letter of reference from director of program addressing applicant's ability to successfully complete an RN program (if applicant has graduated within five years).
 - c. Letter from employer/employers reporting verification of hours worked.
 - d. Must provide copy of LPN licensure.
3. Applicants who have not worked 1,000 hours within the past three (3) years, or have not graduated from an accredited program DO NOT qualify for advanced placement.
 4. Applicants who have graduated or will graduate from an accredited program and have not passed NCLEX-PN and/or completed the preadmission requirements may be admitted as Pre-nursing students, and will be considered for admission based on routine admission procedures.
 5. To be considered for advanced placement, ALL LPNs must take the NLN Foundations of Nursing Challenge exam by **June 30** of the year seeking admission and MUST score 70% or higher.

Any applicant NOT meeting ALL of the above criteria will not qualify for advanced placement.

Pre-nursing:

Students who are unsure of their career path or do not meet the criteria for the BSN4Y program may be admitted as pre-nursing ("Pre-BSN4Y") for **one year**. After one academic year, if the student has not made a decision to pursue a degree in nursing or fails to meet the admission criteria for the BSN4Y program, he or she will be counseled by their academic advisor to choose a different career path, unless the student can show compelling evidence of why he or she should remain "Pre-BSN4Y". If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 at any point, he or she will need to change his/her status from "Pre-BSN4Y" to "Undecided" or another major.

Individuals admitted as pre-nursing (Pre-BSN4Y) are strongly encouraged to take NURS 100-Introduction into Professional Nursing, BIOL 224 Human Biology and Physical Science Chemistry in advance of entering the BSN program. Students are admitted into the BSN4Y program once a year in the fall semester. Pre-nursing students who achieve at least a 3.00 GPA with a minimum of a "C" in all biology, chemistry and math courses will be considered for admission into the BSN4Y program for the next fall semester.

Pre-nursing students wishing to be considered for the BSN program for the next class starting in the fall of the next academic year must meet with their faculty advisor and complete a Change in Status form during the October advising period. In January, all students who have completed and submitted a Change in Status form to the Department of Nursing by December 15th will be evaluated by the nursing faculty for admission in the next BSN4Y class. Twenty-five seats are set aside each year for current pre-nursing and students of other majors who wish to transfer into the BSN4Y program. Pre-nursing students who exceed the admission criteria will be given first consideration for admission to the BSN program. The faculty will review students' degree-audits in February and students will be notified by March 15th whether or not they have been accepted into the BSN4Y program.

To apply, please click this link: <http://www.clarion.edu/admissions/>

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PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION: BSN4Y PROGRAM

- The nursing faculty review admission criteria annually-(March/April).
- The Chair/Nurse Administrator of the Department of Nursing will communicate changes to the admission criteria (ASN & BSN4Y) to Director of Admissions-(May).
- Director of Admissions will communicate changes to Admission Counselors and staff-(June/July).
- Admission Counselors review applicants' transcripts and determine eligibility based on the criteria established by the nursing faculty. Students meeting all criteria will be offered full admission to the nursing program. BSN4Y applicants who have a SAT score of 930-1030 may be offered provisional admission if all other criteria for admission is met.
- In the event a student does meet or exceed all criteria, but appears to be academically prepared, the Director of Admissions or designee will discuss the candidate's application with the Department of Nursing Chair and/or Undergraduate Coordinator. Students who do not meet the full admission or provisional criteria will not be offered admission unless approved by the Chair or Undergraduate Coordinator in the Department of Nursing. If the student is offered admission, the student record will include documentation of the rationale for why the student was admitted.
- Staff in the admission office will provide a list of applicants who have been matriculated to the Department of Nursing Chair/Nurse Administrator or designee upon request. Evidence that the applicants selected have meet all of the criteria for admission (cumulative GPA, SAT score, and admission pre-requisites) will be kept by the admission staff and available for review by the nursing department upon request.
- Target enrollment for the BSN4Y incoming freshman classes is 110 students which has been approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. Applicants will be encouraged to apply before December 1st for the upcoming academic year. Once the target is reached, applicants not selected for admission will be asked if they wish to be added to the BSN4Y waitlist. Students on the waitlist will also be encouraged to explore other majors within Clarion University in the event a seat does not become available.
- Twenty-five (25) of the 110 seats will be held for the pre-BSN nursing and other current Clarion University students. Current students who are interested in being considered for admission to the freshman BSN class are required to submit a Change of Status form to the BSN4Y program secretary of the Department of Nursing by December 15th. The faculty will review all students requesting a change in major at the completion of the fall semester and students will be notified by March 15th whether or not they have been accepted into the program. In the event that there are less than 25 qualified applicants, the remaining seats will be released and may be filled by new students.
- The Admission Department staff will provide information to the Department of Nursing clerical staff only the students who have been admitted and paid their deposits. This information will include: the student demographic page from myClarion, transcripts, and SAT/ACT scores. The Department of Nursing staff will maintain files on all admitted students.

Process for Admission-BSN4Y & ASN Programs

