Undergraduate Program FAQs

Thank you for your interest in the USF College of Nursing! We've provided answers to students' frequently asked questions below. Students will have an opportunity to ask additional questions during one of our Information Sessions. Please click here for more information.

Select the appropriate undergraduate program for specific information:

- **Accelerated Second Degree FAQs**
  - (1) Which program is right for me?
    - All of our undergraduate programs result in obtaining a Bachelor of Science in nursing. The programs are designed for different types of students and have different time frames to completion. Each program requires the completion of state-mandated prerequisite courses, the College of Nursing's prerequisite/support courses, and the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning Core Curriculum (General Education) requirements.

    A brief overview of each program is as follows:

    - **Accelerated Second Degree** - for students who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree (in any field) and are interested in pursuing a second degree and career in nursing. The program is accelerated and completes in 4 consecutive semesters (including summers). The accelerated program is also highly competitive.

    - **RN to Bachelor's (online)** - allows students with a completed Associate of Science in nursing and an RN license to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in nursing. The program bridges the content from an ASN to a BSN. Students will complete 30 hours of nursing coursework, as well as any remaining general education and state-mandated requirements. The nursing coursework for the RN to BS program is offered entirely online.

    - **Upper Division** - designed for students seeking a bachelor's degree in nursing, and is often referred to as a “traditional” program, designed for non-nurses without a prior bachelor's degree. The program is 5 consecutive semesters (including summer), and admission is highly competitive.

    - **USF/HCC Concurrent** - also referred to as the AS to BS program, allows students to enroll in select RN to BS courses at USF as non-degree students while completing the AS degree at Hillsborough Community College. This program is by invitation only to students in the AS program at HCC.

    - **Veteran to Bachelor’s (V-CARE)** - allows service members and veterans with medical training experience as medics or corpsmen the opportunity to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in nursing. The VCARE program is typically completed in 4 consecutive semesters, including summers. The nursing program courses are completed full-time on the Tampa campus, and admission is competitive.

- (2) How can I get more information about the nursing programs?

  - **Visit the College of Nursing** - Schedule a tour of the USF Health campus offered by the USF Health Office of Preadmissions and Outreach. Click here to learn more.

  - **Plan to Attend an Information Session** - We offer one-hour information sessions, webinars and open houses throughout the year. These sessions provide important information to prospective students prior to the application process. Please see the list of current information sessions being offered on our Information Session Schedule.

  - **Walk-in Advising** - If you would like to meet with the undergraduate admissions advisor in person, please see the Admissions Walk-in Advising schedule. Attending an Information Session before coming in for walk-in advising is preferred but not required.

- (3) What are the steps to successfully apply?

  1. Submit an Undergraduate Admissions application to the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office at least 2-3 months prior to when the College of Nursing application opens application. Please select the Tampa campus when applying. You will need to
apply as a degree-seeking student in order to be considered for admission. For questions regarding undergraduate admissions (including USF deadlines), please call (813) 974-3350 or see the Office of Admissions website.

2. Submit the required documentation by sending your official transcripts from every college or university attended directly to the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office, at 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC1036, Tampa, FL 33620-6900. If you have taken CLEP exams, AP courses, or any other tests through the College Board for college credit, please send your scores to USF Undergraduate Admissions directly from College Board website. Transcripts will not be considered until they are received and processed in the system by the USF Undergraduate Admissions office.

3. If admitted to USF as a pre-nursing major, you will have the opportunity to meet with a pre-nursing academic advisor who will review your transfer credit and assist you in making sure all prerequisites are met. The College of Nursing can only consider applicants who meet all the minimum criteria, which includes completion of prerequisites. Seven of the eight state-mandated nursing prerequisites must be completed prior to applying through the USF Health Student Online Application Request (SOAR) application, which is your next step (4). Only one prerequisite is permitted to be in progress during the semester you are applying to the program. The remaining prerequisite can be any one of the eight required prerequisite courses. If offered admission, you must receive a B or better in the one remaining prerequisite course in order to maintain your seat in the program.

4. Only students who have completed steps 1-3 are then ready to submit an application to apply to the College of Nursing. Click here for the online SOAR application. Please Note: The SOAR application requires a university identification number (UID) to apply. All students receive their UID after they have been admitted to USF. It may take a few days for SOAR application to recognize your admission to the university. Please apply through SOAR 2-3 days after you have been admitted to USF if the application period is currently active. If you have been admitted to USF, but the SOAR application for your intended term has not opened yet, you will not be able to apply. Please submit your SOAR application between the cycle dates posted on our website.

(4) Can an advisor evaluate my transcripts from another institution?

The first opportunity to evaluate transcripts is when a student applies for admission through the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office. Unfortunately, there are no pre-screening services available prior to applying to USF. If you are admitted to USF as an undergraduate pre-nursing student, you can meet with a pre-nursing academic advisor to see how the transferable classes fit into the nursing curriculum. You may use the USF Class Schedule Search online to match the description of the USF classes to the description of classes you've taken.

(5) Do credits from Florida Public Community Colleges transfer to the USF College of Nursing?

Florida Community Colleges are typically regionally accredited and have classes very similar to those USF offers. These classes usually meet the prerequisite requirements for the College of Nursing undergraduate programs. You will find that Florida Community College classes that have the same prefix, course number, and description, but they will have a lower course level than those offered at USF (i.e., 1000 level versus 2000 level). Many times, these courses will transfer over and fulfill requirements. You are encouraged to use the USF Class Schedule Search online and match the description of the USF classes to the description of what you've taken.

(6) What is the cost of the nursing program?

Tuition is assessed per credit hour by course level (undergraduate or graduate), and costs will vary based on your residency status and course type (online, clinical, etc.). The tuition for the Tampa campus can be found on the University Controller’s Office website.

Please Note: If you are admitted to the nursing program, there will be additional expenses, such as CPR training, criminal background check, drug screening, textbooks, course software, clinical uniforms, equipment (for pre-licensure students) and other expenses depending on your program. A listing of these estimated expenses ($1,000-$2,500 per year) will be provided at the time of admission to the nursing program.

(7) What options for scholarships and financial aid are available?

See our website for an overview of financial assistance available to nursing students. The USF Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid Services office can also assist with questions related to scholarships, grants and loans.

(8) How can I change my major to pre-nursing?

Because pre-nursing is not a degree program, there are certain requirements that must be met in order to declare pre-nursing as an incoming transfer student to the university or to change your major to pre-nursing once admitted or enrolled. If you are already admitted /enrolled under another major, please review the following steps to change to pre-nursing:

1. Attend a College of Nursing Information Session. Participation in an information session is mandatory to be considered for a change of major to pre-nursing. View the Information Session Schedule here. Those pursuing the Upper Division or Accelerated Second Degree programs must select an in-person session (not webinar) to be eligible to change to pre-nursing.

2. Complete at least 1 full-time semester (at least 12 credit hours) at USF.

3. Achieve at least the following cumulative GPA when requesting the change.
   1. Accelerated Second Degree - 3.00+
2. RN to Bachelor's (online) - 2.50+
3. Upper Division - 3.40+
4. Veteran to Bachelor's (V-CARE) - 2.90+

4. Have at least two or more nursing prerequisite courses to register for or complete.

5. If approved to change your major, meet with your new pre-nursing academic advisor to discuss your educational and career objectives.

It is important to note that students do NOT need to be declared as pre-nursing to apply to the College of Nursing. Students can opt to continue progression in their current major while concurrently completing prerequisites to be eligible to apply to the College of Nursing's programs.

(9) What courses are required for admission?

There are specific courses you would enroll in to meet all state-mandated prerequisites for the College of Nursing. The course numbers listed are the equivalent courses offered here at USF.

- English Composition I and II (6) – ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 (satisfied by bachelor's or associate degree)
- Gordon Rule Math (College Algebra or Finite Math preferred) (3) - MAC 1105 or MGF 1106 (satisfied by bachelor's or associate degree)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I with lab (4) – BSC 2085/L
- Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (4) – BSC 2086/L
- Any Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, or Physics (3-4) – (Any CHM, BCH, BSC, PHY, or PCB)
- Life Span (Human Growth and Development) (3) – DEP 2004
  - Note: The course content must cover development of the individual from birth to death. Any course that does not cover the entire lifespan will not be accepted.
- Human Nutrition (3) – HUN 2201
  - Note: The course content must cover the basics of human nutrition. The course should NOT have a specific focus or topic, such as Nutrition and Drugs, Sports Nutrition, or Nutrition and Disease.
- Microbiology with lab (4) – MCB 2000/L
- Statistics (3) – STA 2122 (Any Statistics)
  - Note: The course content must be statistics-based, not research-based. Courses similar to Research Methods will not satisfy this requirement.
- Psychology or Sociology (3) – (Any PSY, SYG, or SOP)

(10) What GPA do I need to apply? How competitive is admission?

The College of Nursing requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to be eligible for the Accelerated Second Degree program, but the average GPA of students chosen for admission typically falls between a 3.5 and 3.7 overall GPA. Admission is highly competitive and is based on a combination of factors, including overall GPA, grades on the first attempt in the prerequisite courses, and an interview identifying student’s motivations for nursing and professional approach to potential clinical scenarios.

Here are the most recent admissions statistics for the Accelerated Second Degree program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2018 Second Degree Accelerated BS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Applications Received</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Eligible Applicants</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Selected for Interview</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Overall GPA Selected for Interview</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Admitted</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Admitted Overall GPA</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Admitted Prerequisite GPA</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Eligible Students Offered Admission</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Note: Second Degree now admits Spring term only*

*These statistics are provided for information purposes only and are intended to assist prospective students in understanding the competitive admissions processes for some of our programs. The undergraduate program is designated as limited access by the state of Florida.*

11. What entrance exams or supplemental materials are needed to apply for admission?

USF College of Nursing does not require or accept the TEAS, HESI, letters of recommendation, or resumes for our undergraduate nursing programs. Admission is based on a combination of factors, including cumulative GPA, grades on the first attempt in the prerequisites, and an interview identifying student’s motivations for nursing and professional approach to potential clinical scenarios. Applicants who are selected for the interview process will be contacted about scheduling the interview through their SOAR discussion board.

12. I missed the deadline. Can you extend it for me?

There are no extensions to the published application deadlines.

13. Where do students complete clinical experiences?

The USF College of Nursing partners with hospitals and health care agencies across the Tampa Bay area to place students in clinical experiences throughout the program. Some of these partnerships include Tampa General Hospital, James A. Haley VA Hospital, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Morton Plant Mease Health Care, and Manatee Memorial Hospital. Students also have community-based experiences and the opportunity to participate in global experiences in Panama, Scotland, and St. Croix.

14. What is the NCLEX pass rate for the USF College of Nursing?

Our licensure pass rates consistently exceed state and national averages. For 2017, our NCLEX pass rate was 92.57%. Information on NCLEX pass rates can be found on the Florida Board of Nursing website.

RN to Bachelor's FAQs

1. Which major is right for me?

All of our undergraduate programs result in obtaining a Bachelor of Science in nursing. The programs are designed for different types of students and have different time frames to completion. Each program requires the completion of state-mandated prerequisite courses, the College of Nursing's prerequisite/support courses, and the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning Core Curriculum (General Education) requirements.

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2. How can I get more information about the nursing programs?

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• **Walk-In Advising** - If you would like to meet with the Undergraduate Admissions Advisor in person please see the Admissions Walk-in Advising schedule. Attending an Information Session before coming in for walk-in advising is preferred but not required.

3. **What is the RN to Bachelor's program?**

The RN to Bachelor's program allows students with a completed Associate of Science in nursing and an RN license to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in nursing from USF. The program bridges the content from an AS to a BS. Students will complete 30 hours of nursing coursework, as well as any remaining general education and state-mandated requirements. The nursing coursework for the RN to Bachelor's program is offered entirely online. The program is designed to be completed on either a full-time or a part-time schedule. RN's actively working in the field can complete the service learning requirements in their workplace. Those students not actively working as an RN must have a Florida RN license and may be able to be placed in an alternative location in the Tampa Bay area to meet project requirements.

Students can build a degree focused on their unique career needs by selecting one of the following clusters:

- Leadership/Management
- Patient/Staff Education
- Clinical Excellence

In general, the average RN to Bachelor's student completes the program part-time in five semesters. New cohorts are admitted every Fall, Spring and Summer. The enrollment capacity each admissions cycle (semester) of the RN to Bachelor's program is limited to approximately 200 students. Admission is based on meeting the prerequisite requirements of an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher on all undergraduate work (excluding NUR courses), ENC1101 & 1102 with a C or better, an active Florida RN license in good standing, and a completed Associate of Science in nursing from a regionally accredited institution.

Please visit our RN to Bachelor's program page for information on admission requirements, application deadlines, and the admissions process.

4. **Are students required to do clinical experiences in the RN to Bachelor's program?**

Service learning practicum hours are a required component to the RN to BS program; therefore students must be able to practice in the state of Florida and are required to complete their service learning practicum hours within the state of Florida. Three courses in the RN to Bachelor's program have the service learning component. These service learning hours, in total 45 hours, can be completed at your place of employment, if the USF College of Nursing has an affiliation agreement with your employer. For students who may not be employed, or whose employer is not approved for service learning, our college will coordinate finding a placement for these service learning hours.

5. **What courses are required for admission?**

English Composition I and II (6) – ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 (satisfied by bachelor's or associate degree)

Students can have ENC 1102 (or equivalent) in progress when applying to the RN-BS program.

6. **What are the steps to successfully apply?**

1. Submit an Undergraduate Admissions application to the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office at least 2-3 months prior to when the College of Nursing application opens application. Please select the Tampa campus when applying. You will need to apply as a degree-seeking student in order to be considered for admission. For questions regarding undergraduate admissions (including USF deadlines), please call (813) 974-3350 or see the Office of Admissions website.

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(8) Do credits from Florida Public Community Colleges transfer to the USF College of Nursing?

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(9) What is the cost of the nursing program?

Tuition is assessed per credit hour by course level (undergraduate or graduate), and costs will vary based on your residency status and course type (online, clinical, etc.). The tuition for the Tampa campus can be found on the University Controller's Office website.

Please Note: If you are admitted to the nursing program, there will be additional expenses, such as CPR training, criminal background check, drug screening, textbooks, course software, clinical uniforms, equipment (for pre-licensure students) and other expenses depending on your program. A listing of these estimated expenses ($1,000-$2,500 per year) will be provided at the time of admission to the nursing program.

(10) What options for scholarships and financial aid are available?

See our website for an overview of financial assistance available to nursing students. The USF Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid Services office can also assist with questions related to scholarships, grants and loans.

(11) Can I apply if I hold a multi-state license and my home state is part of the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact?

To be eligible for admission, applicants must reside in the state of Florida and have evidence of current Florida RN licensure in good standing. For applicants holding the multi-state license outside of Florida, it is required to declare Florida as state of permanent residence and gain licensure through the state of Florida prior to program start.

Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway FAQs

(1) I want to become a part of the USF Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway. How do I apply?

We are excited to formally announce this innovative partnership, but applications will not be open until the Fall 2017 semester. Advisors from USF St. Petersburg or USF Sarasota-Manatee will begin sharing information about the program during new student orientations and academic advising sessions this summer. The USF College of Nursing will be holding information sessions on campus at USFSP and USFSM in Fall 2017 to provide more information about the pathway and application process for interested students. Be sure to talk with your USFSP or USFSM advisor about this new program, and look for us on campus in the fall semester. Additional details and communication will be shared through the website and the biology departments.

Fall 2017 Information Sessions will be held:

- USF St. Petersburg - Tuesday, October 10, 4:30-6:00 pm, Poynter Corner in the Poynter Memorial Library
- USF Sarasota-Manatee - TBD

(2) What makes this program special?

The Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway creates an opportunity for students from USF St. Petersburg or USF Sarasota-Manatee to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from their respective institutions, followed by a seamless transition to USF College of Nursing’s accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program. The two USF degrees can be completed in five years.

This joint effort by the USF System institutions will enable students to have the unique combination of a science-focused background in the STEM discipline of biology and the academic and clinical rigor of the baccalaureate nursing degree. While in the accelerated nursing program, students will be provided clinical opportunities in their local community (Pinellas, Sarasota or Manatee counties) and will also have the opportunity to engage in nursing research and global nursing experiences. Graduates of USF’s Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway will be ready to fill the high employment demand for nurses and will also be prepared for graduate or doctoral education.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2013), “graduates of accelerated programs are prized by nurse employers who value the many layers of skill and education these graduates bring to the workplace. Employers report that these graduates are more mature, possess strong clinical skills, and are quick studies on the job.”

(3) What extra opportunities will I have as a part of this pathway?

Students in the USF Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway will be provided specific programming opportunities only afforded to those participating in the program. This may include undergraduate research, specialized programming, early connections with USF Nursing faculty, sessions held on campus at USFSP or USFSM, and collaborative academic advising from USFSP/USFSM and USF Nursing.
(4) What does limited access mean?
The undergraduate program in the USF College of Nursing is designated as “limited access” because we have a limited number of seats available due to clinical placement, faculty-to-student ratios, and classroom/lab space. Because we have far more qualified applicants than seats available, admission to the program is highly competitive and meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

(5) If selected, will I be a USF Tampa student or a USF St. Petersburg / USF Sarasota-Manatee student?
The unique nature of this partnership is that you will remain an active, degree-seeking student at your home institution until graduation with the bachelor’s degree in biology. While not a USF Tampa student until graduation, you are eligible to take USF Tampa courses. In particular, the USF College of Nursing offers online sections of Human Anatomy & Physiology (both I and II), Microbiology, and Nutrition each semester. These courses are state-mandated nursing prerequisites that must be completed as a part of your program of study.

(6) Where will I go for academic advising?
Students will have academic advising available to them from both USFSP or USFSM and USF Nursing. Your primary academic advisor is your biology advisor at USFSP or USFSM. Your number one goal is developing a plan to set you on the right track to earn the bachelor's degree in biology, and he/she will be the best resource for you. Advisors at the USF College of Nursing will work collaboratively with you as a student, and the academic advisors at the USF system institutions, to ensure a seamless transition from the biology degree to the accelerated nursing program.

(7) What will my plan of study look like?
Be sure to review the Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway curriculum. This program of study outlines all requirements for the BS in biology from USFSP/USFSM and the BS in nursing from USF Tampa. If you are bringing in credits (AP, IB, CLEP, dual enrollment /transfer, etc), you can work with your academic advisor on what credits will meet these requirements.

(8) Can I move through the program quicker than the proposed curriculum outline?
As you can see from the curriculum plan, this is an intensive program of study, designed to complete two bachelor’s degrees in just 5 years. You will want to work with your academic advisor to develop a plan of study that will ensure your success and keep you on track for the Suncoast Nursing Accelerated Pathway. If you are bringing in AP, IP, CLEP and/or dual enrollment credit it could help to lighten the course load for you. Remember that, currently, the Accelerated Nursing program has only a spring start. Accelerating your timeline to complete the biology degree does not necessarily mean that you would accelerate your start in the nursing program.

(9) Can I transfer to USF Tampa without completing the biology degree?
Students in the Suncoast Accelerated Nursing Pathway must follow the program plan and meet progression requirements to continue into the USF nursing program. This means that the bachelor's degree in biology must be earned from USFSP or USFSM to be eligible to progress on the accelerated pathway. Students who transfer prior to degree completion will no longer be eligible and would need to follow the application process and deadlines for the Upper Division nursing major.

(10) What happens if I don't meet the progression requirements?
If the progression requirements are not met, you will not be able to continue on the pathway into nursing. You would work with your academic advisor at USFSP or USFSM to identify other avenues to achieve your goal, which could possibly include applying to the USF College of Nursing after graduation and/or looking at applying to other nursing programs in the area.

(11) Are scholarships available?
You can visit your respective institutions scholarship website page for information:

- USF St. Petersburg
- USF Sarasota-Manatee

Once enrolled with USF Nursing, students are eligible to apply for scholarships specific to the USF College of Nursing.

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1. Submit an Undergraduate Admissions application to the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office at least 2-3 months prior to when the College of Nursing application opens application. Please select the Tampa campus when applying. You will need to apply as a degree-seeking student in order to be considered for admission. For questions regarding undergraduate admissions (including USF deadlines), please call (813) 974-3350 or see the Office of Admissions website.

2. Submit the required documentation by sending your official transcripts from every college or university attended directly to the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office, at 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC1036, Tampa, FL 33620-6900. If you have taken CLEP exams, AP courses, or any other tests through the College Board for college credit, please send your scores to USF Undergraduate Admissions directly from the College Board website. Transcripts will not be considered until they are received and processed in the system by the USF Undergraduate Admissions office.

3. If admitted to USF as a pre-nursing major, you will have the opportunity to meet with a pre-nursing academic advisor who will review your transfer credit and assist you in making sure all prerequisites are met. The College of Nursing can only consider applicants who meet all the minimum criteria, which includes completion of prerequisites. Seven of the eight state mandated nursing prerequisites must be completed prior to applying through the USF Health Student Online Application Request (SOAR) application which is your next step (4). Only one prerequisite is permitting admission in progress during the semester you are applying through the program. The remaining prerequisite can be any one of the eight required prerequisite courses. If offered admission, you must receive a B or better in the one remaining prerequisite course in order to maintain your seat in the program.

4. Only students who have completed steps 1-3 are then ready to submit an application to apply to the College of Nursing. Click here for the online SOAR application. Please Note: The SOAR application requires a university identification number (UID) to apply. All students receive their UID after they have been admitted to USF. It may take a few days for SOAR application to recognize your admission to the university. Please apply through SOAR 2-3 days after you have been admitted to USF if the application period is currently active. If you have been admitted to USF, but the SOAR application for your intended term has not opened yet, you will not be able to apply. Please submit your SOAR application between the cycle dates posted on our website.
(4) Can an advisor evaluate my transcripts from another institution?

The first opportunity to evaluate transcripts is when a student applies for admission through the USF Undergraduate Admissions Office. Unfortunately, there are no pre-screening services available prior to applying to USF. If you are admitted to USF as an undergraduate pre-nursing student, you can meet with a pre-nursing academic advisor to see how the transferable classes fit into the nursing curriculum. You may use the USF Class Schedule Search online to match the description of the USF classes to the description of classes you've taken.

(5) Do credits from Florida Public Community Colleges transfer to the USF College of Nursing?

Florida Community Colleges are typically regionally accredited and have classes very similar to those USF offers. These classes usually meet the prerequisite requirements for the College of Nursing undergraduate programs. You will find that Florida Community College classes that have the same prefix, course number, and description but will have a lower course level than those offered at USF (i.e., 1000 level versus 2000 level). Many times, these courses will transfer over and fulfill requirements. You are encouraged to use the USF Class Schedule Search online and match the description of the USF classes to the description of what you've taken.

(6) What is the cost of the nursing program?

Tuition is assessed per credit hour by course level (undergraduate or graduate), and costs will vary based on your residency status and course type (online, clinical, etc.). The tuition for the Tampa campus can be found on the University Controller’s Office website.

Please Note: If you are admitted to the nursing program, there will be additional expenses, such as CPR training, criminal background check, drug screening, textbooks, course software, clinical uniforms, equipment (for pre-licensure students) and other expenses depending on your program. A listing of these estimated expenses ($1,000-$2,500 per year) will be provided at the time of admission to the nursing program.

(7) What options for scholarships and financial aid are available?

See our website for an overview of financial assistance available to nursing students. The USF Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid Services office can also assist with questions related to scholarships, grants and loans.

(8) I am a high school/transfer student interested in nursing. What is my best route to apply for the program?

Pre-nursing is a major designation at USF designed for undergraduate students who plan to enroll in courses on a path to apply to one of the College of Nursing’s undergraduate programs (Accelerated Second Degree, RN to Bachelor’s, Upper Division, Veteran to Bachelor’s (V-CARE)). Because pre-nursing is not a degree program, there are certain requirements that must be met in order to declare pre-nursing as an incoming student to the university or to change your major to pre-nursing once admitted or enrolled.

Benefits to pre-nursing include dedicated pre-nursing academic advisors; access to our pre-nursing student organization (Stampede into Bull Nursing) and the Pre-Nursing Living Learning Community; priority registration in several of the state-mandated nursing prerequisite courses; and application and interview preparation workshops.

It is important to note that pre-nursing and the undergraduate nursing programs do NOT prepare students to pursue and/or apply for other health care fields, such as medicine, pharmacy, and/or physician’s assistant programs. If interested in these areas, please consult with the Division of Health Professions Advising.

(9) How can I change my major to pre-nursing?

Because pre-nursing is not a degree program, there are certain requirements that must be met in order to declare pre-nursing as an incoming transfer student to the university or to change your major to pre-nursing once admitted or enrolled. If you are already admitted/enrolled under another major, please review the following steps to change to pre-nursing:

1. Attend a College of Nursing Information Session. Participation in an information session is mandatory in order to be considered for a change of major to pre-nursing. View the Information Session Schedule here. Those pursuing the Upper Division or Accelerated Second Degree programs must select an in-person session (not webinar) to be eligible to change to pre-nursing.

2. Complete at least 1 full-time semester (at least 12 credit hours) at USF.

3. Achieve at least the following cumulative GPA when requesting the change.
   1. Accelerated Second Degree - 3.00+
   2. RN to Bachelor's (online) - 2.50+
   3. Upper Division - 3.40+
   4. Veteran to Bachelor’s (V-CARE) - 2.90+

4. Have at least two or more nursing prerequisite courses to register for or complete.

5. If approved to change your major, meet with your new pre-nursing academic advisor to discuss your educational and career objectives.

It is important to note that students do NOT need to be declared as pre-nursing to apply to the College of Nursing. Students can opt to continue progression in their current major while concurrently completing prerequisites to be eligible to apply to the College of Nursing’s programs.
(10) What courses are required for admission?

There are specific courses you would enroll in to meet all state-mandated prerequisites for the College of Nursing. The course numbers listed are the equivalent courses offered here at USF.

- English Composition I and II (6) – ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 (satisfied by bachelor's or associate degree)
- Gordon Rule Math (College Algebra or Finite Math preferred) (3) - MAC 1105 or MGF 1106 (satisfied by bachelor's or associate degree)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I with lab (4) – BSC 2085/L
- Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (4) – BSC 2086/L
- Any Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, or Physics (3-4) – (Any CHM, BCH, BSC, PHY, or PCB)
- Life Span (Human Growth and Development) (3) – DEP 2004
  - Note: The course content must cover development of the individual from birth to death. Any course that does not cover the entire lifespan will not be accepted.
- Human Nutrition (3) – HUN 2201
  - Note: The course content must cover the basics of human nutrition. The course should NOT have a specific focus or topic, such as Nutrition and Drugs, Sports Nutrition, or Nutrition and Disease.
- Microbiology with lab (4) – MCB 2000/L
- Statistics (3) – STA 2122 (Any Statistics)
  - Note: The course content must be statistics-based, not research-based. Courses similar to Research Methods will not satisfy this requirement.
- Psychology or Sociology (3) – (Any PSY, SYG, or SOP)

(11) What GPA do I need to apply? How competitive is admission?

The College of Nursing requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.20 to be eligible for the Upper Division program, but the average GPA of students chosen for admission falls around a 3.8 overall GPA. Admission is highly competitive and is based on a combination of factors, including overall GPA, grades on the first attempt in the prerequisite courses, and an interview identifying student’s motivations for nursing and professional approach to potential clinical scenarios.

Here are the most recent admissions statistics for the Upper Division program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2018 Upper Division BS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Applications Received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Eligible Applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Selected for Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Overall GPA selected for Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Admitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Admitted GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Admitted Prerequisite GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Eligible Students Offered Admission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These statistics are provided for information purposes only and are intended to assist prospective students in understanding the competitive admissions processes for some of our programs. The undergraduate program is designated as limited access by the state of Florida.*

(12) What entrance exams or supplemental materials are needed to apply for admission?

The USF College of Nursing does not require or accept the TEAS, HESI, letters of recommendation, or resumes for our undergraduate nursing programs. Admission is based on a combination of factors, including cumulative GPA, grades on the first attempt in the
prerequisites, and an interview identifying student’s motivations for nursing and professional approach to potential clinical scenarios. Applicants who are selected for the interview process will be contacted about scheduling the interview through their SOAR discussion board.

(13) I missed the deadline. Can you extend it for me?
There are no extensions to the published application deadlines.

(14) Where do students complete clinical experiences?
The USF College of Nursing partners with hospitals and health care agencies across the Tampa Bay area to place students in clinical experiences throughout the program. Some of these partnerships include Tampa General Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Florida Hospital Tampa, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Lakeland Regional Health, James A. Haley VA Hospital, Morton Plant Mease Health Care, and St. Anthony's Hospital. Students also have community-based experiences and the opportunity to participate in global experiences in Panama, Scotland, and St. Croix.

(15) What is the NCLEX pass rate for the USF College of Nursing?
Our licensure pass rates consistently exceed state and national averages. For 2017, our NCLEX pass rate was 92.57%. Information on NCLEX pass rates can be found on the Florida Board of Nursing website.

(16) Can the College of Nursing show preference to certain students that apply?
Please see section 3 of the Florida statute on Limited Access.

USF/HCC Concurrent FAQs

(1) Which program is right for me?
All of our undergraduate programs result in obtaining a Bachelor of Science in nursing. The programs are designed for different types of students and have different time frames to completion. Each program requires the completion of state-mandated prerequisite courses, the College of Nursing's prerequisite/support courses, and the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning Core Curriculum (General Education) requirements.

A brief overview of each program is as follows:

- **Accelerated Second Degree** - for students who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree (in any field) and are interested in pursuing a second degree and career in nursing. The program is accelerated and completes in 4 consecutive semesters (including summers). The accelerated program is also highly competitive.

- **RN to Bachelor's (online)** - allows students with a completed Associate of Science in Nursing degree and an RN license to receive a bachelor's of science degree with a major in nursing. The program bridges the content from an AS to a BS. Students will complete 30 hours of nursing coursework as well as any remaining general education and state mandated requirements. The nursing coursework for the RN to BS program is offered entirely online.

- **Upper Division** - designed for students seeking a bachelor's degree in nursing, and is often referred to as a "traditional" program, designed for non-nurses without a prior bachelor's degree. The program is 5 consecutive semesters (including summer), and admission is highly competitive.

- **USF/HCC Concurrent** - also referred to as the AS to BS program, allows students to enroll in select RN to BS courses at USF as a non-degree student while completing the AS degree at Hillsborough Community College. This program is by invitation only to students in the AS program at HCC.

- **Veteran to Bachelor's (V-CARE)** - allows service members and veterans with medical training experience as medics or corpsmen the opportunity to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in nursing. The V-CARE program is typically completed in 4 consecutive semesters, including summers. The nursing program courses are completed full-time on the Tampa campus, and admission is competitive.

(2) How do I apply to the USF/HCC Concurrent Program?
Students are only considered for the concurrent program if they are admitted to HCC's AS program for either the Fall or Spring. Once admitted to HCC's AS program during an appropriate semester, students will be invited to an Information Session held on the HCC’s campus where complete details about the program structure and progression policies will be shared. After the Information Session, the USF undergraduate admissions advisor will submit the list of students who attended the Information Session to HCC Advisors for evaluation. HCC determines who is eligible for the concurrent program based on their GPA calculations. Once HCC identifies the students who are eligible, the USF undergraduate admissions advisor will reach out to those students and invite them to an orientation at USF where they will complete their non-degree seeking applications to USF.

(3) When do I apply to USF as a degree seeking student to finish my BS?
Students will apply to USF as degree-seeking students during their last semester at HCC. After graduation, HCC sends all of the concurrent students' AS transcripts to USF Undergraduate Admissions for evaluation. Once the concurrent students are admitted to USF, they will be required to complete a USF College of Nursing SOAR application.
Veteran to Bachelor’s (VCARE) FAQs

(1) What is the Veteran to Bachelor’s (VCARE) program?

The Veteran to Bachelor’s (V-CARE) program allows service members and veterans with medical training experience as medics or corpsmen the opportunity to receive a Bachelor of Science with a major in nursing. New classes are currently admitted in Fall. The program is typically completed in four consecutive semesters, including summers (after pre-requisites). Prerequisites can be completed at any regionally accredited college/university. The nursing program courses are completed full-time on the Tampa campus. The program is limited access and admission is competitive. Admission is based on a combination of factors, including cumulative GPA, grades on the first attempt in the prerequisites, and a writing sample identifying student’s motivations for nursing, plans for academic success, relevant leadership, or volunteer experiences as they contribute to nursing and a clinical-based experience scenario.

See the program page for additional FAQs, program information and the application process.

(2) What is the NCLEX pass rate for the USF College of Nursing?

Our licensure pass rates consistently exceed state and national averages. For 2017, our NCLEX pass rate was 92.57%. Information on NCLEX pass rates can be found on the Florida Board of Nursing website.

Military Commissioning Program FAQs

MECP (Navy)

Upper Division, Accelerated Second Degree, and V-CARE are currently all eligible under the MECP guidelines. Please speak with your commissioning program recruiter for more information on institution/program eligibility.

- Applicants should apply **one year in advance** by using the current application process. For example, if students wish to begin the nursing program in Fall 2019, they would go through the Fall 2018 application process. If admitted, their admission would be deferred to Fall 2019.
- Applicants must submit a SOAR application and indicate which term they wish to actually begin the program (i.e., Fall 2019).
- Admitted students will receive an acceptance letter (conditional or nonconditional), a projected degree completion plan, and a summary of estimated tuition and fees that they will submit as part of their application to MECP.

NECP (Air Force)

Upper Division, Accelerated Second Degree, and V-CARE are currently all eligible under the NECP guidelines. Please speak with your commissioning program recruiter for more information on institution/program eligibility.

Applicant decisions are made by the end of March, which ensures time to meet NECP board deadlines. Admitted students will receive an acceptance letter, a projected degree completion plan, and a summary of estimated tuition and fees which they will submit as part of their applications to the NECP. Applicants should apply directly to the term they wish to begin the nursing program.

AECP (Army)

Accelerated Second Degree and V-CARE are currently eligible under the AECP guidelines. Upper Division is not eligible due to the five online courses in the curriculum. AECP requires two or fewer online courses. Please speak with your commissioning program recruiter for more information on institution/program eligibility.

- Applicants should apply **one year in advance** by using the current application process. For example, if students wishing to begin the nursing program in Fall 2019, they would go through the Fall 2018 application process. If admitted, their admission would be deferred to Fall 2019.
- Applicants must submit a SOAR application and indicate which term they wish to actually begin the program (i.e., Fall 2019).
- Admitted students will receive an acceptance letter (conditional or nonconditional), a projected degree completion plan, and a summary of estimated tuition and fees that they will submit as part of their applications to AECP.