

Questions All Pre-nursing Students Should Ask Themselves

1. Have you decided which RN route you plan to take?

There are two avenues to becoming a registered nurse. One is to earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN, ASN, or AASN). This takes about one year of general education courses for associate pre-nursing students followed by two years in nursing school (with about 9-12 credits/semester). The second route is to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). It requires about two years of general education courses for BSN pre-nursing students followed by two years of nursing school (about 15-18 credits/semester). The starting pay is about the same, but the BSN nurse has more opportunities for advancement through the years. If you choose the associate's degree path, there are opportunities later to earn the BSN through any one of several local RN-BSN programs.

2. Have you visited the Pre-nursing Advising Center at PSCC?

The Pre-nursing Advising Center offers information about local associate's and bachelor's nursing programs. Specially trained pre-nursing advisors are available to meet with students to discuss their college and career plans. As information can change semester to semester students should visit a pre-nursing advisor on a regular basis. Before meeting with an advisor students should verify their major is either:

<u>Major Title</u>	<u>Major Code</u>	
Nursing—UTK.....	INUR	For students articulating/transferring to UTK's nursing school.
Pre-nursing (General).....	KNUR	Any nursing program other than UTK.

Changes of major forms are available in the Admission's Office at any PSCC campus.

3. Do you keep up with the latest information about nursing schools? Are you taking the correct courses?

General education requirements can be different among nursing schools, especially between BSN programs. Schools can change program courses and requirements at anytime. Each nursing school will post course requirements on their website. Meeting with a pre-nursing advisor every registration period will help keep you on track in taking the correct courses. For course information and a list of nursing program websites visit www.pstcc.edu/departments/nursing.

4. Have you visited the nursing schools you are interested in applying to?

Visiting nursing schools early in your college career will give a better understanding of what to expect.

- Take a tour of the college and the nursing facilities.
- Meet with a nursing advisor to discuss application procedures, entrance exams, and program options.
- Inquire about nursing school deadlines, CPR certification, and immunizations.

Note that an application is required to BOTH the college and to the nursing school. (In most cases, the student must be accepted to the college before the nursing school can consider them.) The application dates are often well before the start of the program. We suggest that you apply to more than one nursing school, when possible, to increase your chances of admission.

5. Have you asked the nursing school(s) to evaluate your transcripts from previous colleges?

Courses are NOT transferable to all schools. A course may be transferable to one college and not another. It is the student's responsibility to ask each nursing school if courses taken from any college are transferable and equivalent.

6. Have you applied for Financial Aid: After being accepted into a nursing program?

Check with the Financial Aid Office at each nursing school for which you have applied to determine what financial aid will be available upon acceptance into the nursing program. Most schools offer scholarships specifically for nursing students. General scholarships and financial aid should also be available.