

You must have a Registered Nurse (RN) license to practice nursing. There are several ways in which you can obtain an RN license. Community colleges offer an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), which takes approximately 2 years to complete. Community colleges often have a long waiting list for prospective students. A Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) is available at several schools, and some schools have the option to complete a second degree in an accelerated setting. These accelerated programs range anywhere from 12 to 18 months. Another option for people with a non-nursing Bachelors degree is a Masters program in Nursing (MSN). Make sure that the program you are interested in includes an RN licensure component. Programs such as these are called Entry-Level MSN or Direct Entry MSN programs. Most MSN programs prepare students to acquire their Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist license. Entry-Level MSN programs take about 3 years to complete.

### Possible Pathways to a Registered Nurse (RN) License after Earning a BA or BS from UC Merced

Community College	Traditional BSN	Accelerated BSN	Entry Level MSN
Associate Degree in Nursing	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Master of Science in Nursing
about 2 years	about 2 years (apply for 2nd degree and enter at the Junior level, approximately)	about 12 - 18 months (very fast paced; designed for people with a non-nursing BA/BS)	about 3 years (most clinical programs also prepare you for NP exams )
			GRE required for most programs

### Prerequisites

The most important part of preparation for a nursing program of any kind is the completion of pre-requisite courses. Any major is acceptable as long as your coursework includes the required classes for the program you are interested in. Although each school has different requirements, some of the most common (with the UC Merced equivalents) are:

Chemistry	CHEM 2 – General Chemistry I <b>and</b> CHEM 10 – General Chemistry II
Biology	BIO 1/L – Contemporary Biology <b>and</b> BIO 2/L – Introduction to Molecular Biology

Human Anatomy with Lab	BIO 164 - Human Anatomy (includes lab)
Human Physiology with Lab	BIO 161 - Human Physiology (includes lab)
Microbiology with Lab	BIO 120 – General Microbiology <b>and</b> BIO 120L – General Microbiology Lab
Statistics	MATH 18 – Statistics for Scientific Data Analysis MATH 32 – Statistics PSY 10 – Analysis of Psychological Data
College Composition	WRI 10 - College Reading and Composition
General Psychology	PSY 1 - Introduction to Psychology
General Sociology	SOC 1 - Introduction to Sociology
Nutrition	BIO 60 - Nutrition

\*This list is not comprehensive, and each school in which you are interested should be contacted for a complete description of their requirements.

### **Testing**

For most MSN programs and some 2nd BSN programs, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required. This test is similar to the SAT test and can be taken virtually any day Monday through Saturday.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Internships in clinical settings are helpful for clarifying your desires to enter the nursing profession, and show the schools you apply to that you understand the role of a nurse. For more information, visit the Career Services Center.

### **California Schools Offering Programs in Professional Nursing Leading to RN Licensure**

The California Board of Registered Nursing maintains a database detailing the schools in California that offer RN programs. The database can be found at <http://www.rn.ca.gov/schools/rnprograms.shtml>.