

NURSING SCHOOL

Nursing (ABSN/BSN/EMSN) is a profession within the healthcare field that focuses on providing care, support, and treatment to individuals, families, and communities to promote and maintain their health and well-being. Nurses play a critical role in the healthcare system and work in various settings such as hospitals, clinics, schools, home care, and community health centers.

[Is Nursing the Right Career for Me?](#)

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Students not currently in the BSN program at USF will either continue to an [ABSN](#) (Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing) or [Entry-Level MSN](#) program after graduation. [The American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#) provides information on all pathways.

Prerequisites for nursing programs can vary depending on the school and degree type you are pursuing. You can find a list of all accredited nursing programs through the [American Association of Colleges in Nursing Directory](#)

COMMON COURSE PREREQUISITES

1 Semester Human Anatomy with Lab	BIOL 113 & 114L	4
1 Semester of Human Physiology with Lab	BIOL 115 & 116L	4
1 Semester Microbiology with Lab	BIOL 134/135L	4
1 Semester of General Psychology	PSYC 101	4
1 Semester Nutrition Course	N/A	3-4
1 Semester of Statistics	MATH 101	3-4

Notes: Other programs may require or highly recommend organic chemistry, lifespan human development, sociology. It is important to look at the schools you are interested in for their specific requirements. Here are links to requirements for three nursing programs highly desired by USF applicants:

→ [Masters Entry at USF](#) → [MEPN at UC Irvine](#) → [ABSN at Samuel Merritt University](#)

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Many nursing programs require applicants to take standardized tests such as the Test of Essential Academic Skills ([TEAS](#)) or the [GRE](#).

EXPERIENCES

There is no bigger "helping profession" than being a nurse. Therefore it is essential to show nursing programs you have a commitment to helping others. This can be done in both clinical and non-clinical ways. To gain experience for nursing school, you can take the following steps:

→ **Volunteer in [healthcare settings](#):**

- ◆ Look for opportunities to volunteer at hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or community health centers. Contact these facilities directly or inquire with local volunteer organizations.

→ **Work as a certified nursing assistant (CNA):**

- ◆ CNAs provide direct patient care under the supervision of registered nurses and can gain valuable hands-on experience in healthcare settings.
- ◆ You can also enroll in courses or certifications related to healthcare, such as CPR, first aid, or medical terminology. These courses can enhance your knowledge and skills.

→ **Volunteer in [community or non-profit organizations](#):**

- ◆ Health professional programs value service from their applicants. San Francisco has many opportunities to give back.

APPLICATION PROCESS

→ **Research Nursing Programs**

- ◆ Consider factors such as program accreditation, curriculum, clinical experiences, faculty, and admission requirements. Furthermore, most USF applicants also weigh applying to either [ABSN](#) (Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing) or [MSN/MEPN](#) (Entry-Level Masters Programs), both designed for applicants who have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing major.

→ **Meet Prerequisites:**

- ◆ Determine the specific prerequisites and admission requirements for each nursing program you are interested in

→ **Application Materials:**

- ◆ Most nursing programs use [NursingCAS](#) for their application process. You will likely need all of the following for your Nursing Application: **official transcripts** from all educational institutions you have attended, a well-crafted **personal statement**, three **letters of recommendations**, a **resume**, and **standardized test scores**.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Most Nursing Programs will accept up to 4 letters of recommendation but most require 3 letters.

- Obtain letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or healthcare professionals who can speak to your qualifications and character.