Get to know NURSING

There has never been a more exciting time to consider a Bachelor of Nursing Science degree! Nurses are among the most in-demand professionals in the health care environment. Along with enjoying a high degree of respect and trust from the public, students who graduate with a BNSc degree from Queen’s enjoy a high employment rate both internationally and across Canada.

This professional degree program qualifies graduates to apply to the regulatory body of the province in which they plan to work, to secure registration to practice with the title “Registered Nurse”. Our philosophy is that exemplary nursing practice is built upon the foundational blocks of both the sciences and arts. You will get to know faculty and your peers well, as our smaller class sizes and group settings allow for community building, mentorship, and collaboration. Students learn how to care for patients and their families in various settings, such as hospitals, long-term care, clinics, and the community. You will also engage in collaborative and team building opportunities with students from other Faculty of Health Sciences programs. Upper year students may also choose to complete their elective courses at Bader College during one spring session.

Furthermore, Queen’s BNSc degree options not only prepare you to become a capable practitioner in health care, but they also build a foundation for future graduate studies.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Nursing Sciences (4 Years)  123 credits

Bachelor of Nursing Sciences Accelerated Standing Track - AST (2 years) *  90 credits

There are a number of pathways that applicants may apply under, including Equity Admission Self-Identification, Admission Pathway for Indigenous Students, and the First Generation Pathway (for students whose parents did not attend post-secondary).

*Please note the AST program is only for those with previous university education. For more information on the AST program please see page three of this Major Map.

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Those applying to Queen’s nursing from high school will do so through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include English 4U, Biology 4U, Chemistry 4U, and a 4U Mathematics course. Two additional U or M level courses are also required. A minimum grade of 75% is necessary in English 4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. Applicants with previous university education looking to apply to the Accelerated Standing Track BNSc should follow the admissions process outlined on our website.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

The School of Nursing emphasizes an inter-professional approach to education. Nursing students will have the chance to work with students from across the Queen’s Health Sciences and interact with a variety of health professionals.


That is a degree from Queen’s.
Nursing MAJOR MAP
BACHELOR OF NURSING SCIENCE

2023-2024

1ST YEAR
- First year courses will cover many of the fundamentals of this professional program. We will register you in all of your required courses. You do not need electives in first year.
- For an additional credential, consider applying to the Certificate in Business, the Arts & Science Certificate, or a Dual Degree program.
- Take a total of 5 (3.0 credits each) electives while in the program. One 3.0 credit course fits into the Winter term of second year.

2ND YEAR
- Second year continues to cover the fundamentals of nursing. Clinical placements start in second year. We will register you into your core courses.
- Look into summer jobs by talking to thedept. or Career Services about work through WEI or Work-Study.
- Take leadership roles within different clubs or extracurriculars. Apply to be a Student Wellness Services Volunteer. Explore volunteer opportunities at healthcare agencies. Apply to be an Peer Mentor or a Bounce Back Coach.
- Apply to work in the Nursing Simulation Lab. An email will be sent to students when positions become available.

3RD YEAR
- You will be preregistered into your clinical placements and associated theory courses. There is room for 3 electives (3.0 credits each) in this year.
- Apply to be a research assistant for a faculty member at the School of Nursing. Send a letter of interest to nuredlab@queensu.ca.
- Apply for summer positions with health agencies.

FINAL YEAR
- We will register you into all of your Fall term courses. There is room for your final elective in Fall term. In Winter term you can apply to take your final clinical placement (anywhere in Canada). You also take an online course.
- Attend relevant conferences such as the annual conference hosted by the Canadian Nursing Student's Association.
- Visit our website or check out Job Services workshops.

Employability skills
Your time at Queen's will give you valuable skills to boost your employability, including:
- Application of evidence-informed nursing interventions
- Understanding of ethical practices
- Specialized knowledge of the biological, social, and psychological factors involved in health
- Experiential learning - all students will gain experience throughout all four years of the program
- Problem solving - analyze the components of complex health problems and identify appropriate courses of action
- Decision making - consider different sides of an issue and make decisions based on current information
- Ability to interact professionally with patients, families and other health care professionals
- Oral and written communication - write reports and give presentations
- Organization and time management

Where could I go after graduation?
- Direct care/clinical nurse in:
  - Home care nursing
  - Long-term care setting
  - Mental health nursing
  - Public health

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
- Join teams or clubs on campus. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.
- Volunteer with the Nursing Science Society. Apply to be an orientation leader if interested.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
- Volunteer on- or off-campus with different community organizations, such as nursing homes or in health care clinics across Kingston. Explore Kingston. Take part in community events, try local restaurants, and skate in Springer Market Square.
- Join professional associations such as the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, Canadian Nurses Association, and the Canadian Nursing Students' Association.
- Attend nursing talks or conferences in your community such as the annual Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (UCOH).

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities. Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate and research possible immigration regulations.
- Consider taking spring electives at a Medieval castle owned by Queen's in Herstmonceux, UK. Courses at the castle - named Tutor College - are available to upper year students throughout May and June.
- Consider a Global Health elective.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
- Questions about the program? Contact the Nursing Academic Advisor at nursing@queensu.ca.
- Start working on your professional portfolio.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
- Explore different career options through Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on Queen's LinkedIn. Attend Career Fairs organized by the Nursing Science Society.
- Talk to professors at the School of Nursing about career and graduate school opportunities. For more information, please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator at the School of Nursing at gradnursing@queensu.ca.
- Work on your curriculum vitae.

How to use this map
Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions - you don't have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

© Career Services, Queen's University, 2023-2024
Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Why study in Kingston?
For over 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.