Fall 2016 Course Enrollment Tips
For Nursing Upper Division Applicants

You’ve applied for Upper Division Admission to the nursing program to start the fall 2016 term. You know you will receive your admission decision in mid-May via email. But your enrollment appointment for fall is in April. What do you do? How do you enroll? Here are some suggestions and tips based on students’ frequently asked questions:

Should I wait to enroll until I get my admission decision?

No. Don’t wait. You should enroll in a legitimate fall term course schedule when your enrollment appointment comes.

What should I enroll in for this fall?

First run your nursing Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) report. Your DARS will show your progress toward satisfying your Bachelor of Science–Nursing degree requirements. Enroll in courses to complete nursing requirements, including:

- **General Education Requirements**
  - For sure you should complete Comm-A, QR-A, QR-B, and Ethnic Studies.
  - Comm-B is satisfied by N319 in the nursing program. It’s a good idea to enroll in Comm-B for the fall because if you are not admitted you’ll need your Comm-B to graduate from UW–Madison.

- **Humanities/Social Science Requirements**
  - In addition to your prerequisites in PSYCH, SOC, and HG&D, you need an additional 13 credits in HUM/SS to total 22 credits. Enroll in course(s) to complete this requirement.

- **Intermediate/Advanced-Level Credit Requirement**
  - The nursing degree requires at least 75 credits (out of the total 124) be at the Intermediate or Advanced (I/A) level.
    - 62 of these 75 credits are met with required course work, as follows: 51cr nursing core curriculum, 5cr PHYS 335, 3cr PHARM SCI 401, and 3cr PATH 404.
  - Check your nursing DARS to see how many I/A credits you need to total 75 and enroll in I/A-level course work to hit that mark, remembering to adjust for the classes listed above.

- **Electives**
  - You need at least 15 elective credits for nursing. If your DARS shows you have fewer than 15 elective credits, select any non-nursing course that is interesting and ideally works toward your parallel plan (see page 2).

- **N105 Health Care Systems**
  - N105 is one of the only nursing courses students can take prior to admission to the program. If you haven’t taken N105 yet, consider enrolling in N105 for the fall term. It’s 2 credits.

Should I take PHARM SCI 401 Survey of Pharmacology?

Admitted nursing students take PHARM SCI 401 during their first semester in the nursing program. With that said:

- If you’re admitted for fall 2016, you’ll take this course fall 2016. You can enroll now in anticipation of admission.
- Students can take PHARM SCI 401 if they’re not in the nursing program. The only prerequisite is PHYS 335.
- Students who are not admitted tend to like to take this class because it continues progress toward the nursing degree and because, if they intend to reapply, they believe successful completion of PHARM SCI 401 reflects favorably on their application. Both are true, but read on.
- If you’re interested in taking PHARM SCI 401 even if you’re not admitted, here are some things to keep in mind:
  - It tends to be a challenging course. In fall 2014, the overall class GPA was a 3.4 (AB). The average class GPA for nursing students enrolled was a 3.5. The average GPA for pre-nursing students enrolled was a 3.1.
  - Students have reported the class is easier to comprehend and seems more applicable when it’s paired with their nursing course work.
  - The Nursing Learning Center offers academic support for PHARM SCI 401 for both pre- and nursing students. If you plan to complete PHARM SCI 401, especially as a pre-nursing student, you should make a commitment to yourself to utilize the NLC small-group weekly academic support sessions in the fall.

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Is this also when I need to get serious about my parallel plan, if I haven’t already?

Exactly. Once you review your nursing DARS to identify outstanding requirements for nursing, you need to round out your schedule with course work to advance your parallel plan. Some things to keep in mind:

- Pages 14-16 of the Pre-Nursing Handbook include detailed information on parallel planning. Start there.
- The School of Nursing is hosting the Nursing Parallel Planning Workshop on Friday, April 8, 11am–12:30pm, in Cooper Hall 1227. Registration is not required. Plan to attend.
- If your parallel plan is to complete a parallel major at UW–Madison, explore other majors of interest:
  - If you’re really not sure which major(s) to consider, schedule an appointment with an advisor from the Cross-College Advising Service to explore options.
  - If you have a major in mind, schedule an appointment with an advisor in that department. Use the new Undergraduate Advising website to connect with the appropriate advisor.
  - Once you have a sense of your parallel plan major, enroll in course work for the fall that will satisfy degree requirements for that program.
- If your parallel plan is to transfer to another nursing program or earn your BS–Nursing in an accelerated or second-degree program:
  - Research other programs of interest and work to understand their application process and admission prerequisites.
  - The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website has a search function that lets you search by name, state, or program (e.g., accelerated).
  - Enroll in courses to satisfy admission and/or degree requirements for those programs. While UW–Madison’s nursing prerequisites are fairly common to other programs, some common variables include a microbiology lab, biostatistics, nutrition, and course work to cover psychological development of a human across the full lifespan.
- At the risk of having you believe your nursing academic advisor doesn’t know everything about everything, please realize there are better people to discuss the details of your parallel plan with than your nursing advisor. We know the nursing program at UW–Madison, very well. We know less about the other majors on campus and we also don’t have all the details on other nursing programs. It’s important that you use the resources noted above (the April 8 workshop, Cross-College Advising Service, departmental advisors, etc.) to help you define your parallel plan.

What should I prioritize—nursing degree requirements or course work toward my parallel plan?

This is a balance. Best advice is to:

- Start with degree requirements that cross nursing with your parallel plan. For example:
  - If you need a 3-credit HUM/SS course or 4 I/A credits, pick a course that satisfies that requirement and is also a course needed for your parallel plan, or
  - If you need a General Education Requirement, such as Comm-B or Ethnic Studies, take that because you’ll need to satisfy those requirements for any/all UW–Madison degree programs.
- Consider holding off on nursing-specific courses you can complete as part of your nursing degree, if ultimately admitted. This would include N105 and PHARM SCI 401.
- The key strategy for the fall is to select courses that will advance you toward a degree. You want that to be a BS–Nursing from UW–Madison. But for this interim scheduling period, you need to let yourself select courses that will help you earn a degree in the most efficient way possible.

What if I am admitted? What will I take?

All first-year nursing students will take N212, N219, and N301. Students who have not yet taken N105 and/or PHARM SCI 401 will also take these courses. Admitted students receive detailed fall 2016 enrollment information in their admission packet. Essentially you’ll be advised to drop non-nursing courses for the fall and add the nursing curriculum. We guarantee seats in our nursing courses so course access is not a concern. You can review the nursing sequence of courses on the StudentNet.

I’m planning to work in the fall and I need to know my course schedule now to notify my supervisor.

If you are admitted to the nursing program, you will not know your final fall course and clinical schedule until early August. This is because we finalize clinical sites for N219 Clinical Nursing I over the summer and those rotation schedules are not finalized until July and August. We realize this can be problematic for students balancing work, family obligations, etc., but it is the reality. You will need to wait until early August to receive your fall schedule and then manage your other obligations around those days and times. There is no work-around.