

The Ultimate **NURSING SCHOOL** Admissions Checklist

15

steps to getting accepted
into an accredited program

Getting In Can Seem **INTIMIDATING**

Just looking at a list of nursing program requirements can seem daunting. That's why **expert admissions representatives** are here to break it down **with a checklist of the 15 things you need to do**



Why You're Stressed Out

- GPA anxiety
- Endless waitlists
- Am I too late?
- Do I have what it takes?

What's the most important thing?

1

Really

(and we mean *really*)

WANT TO BE A NURSE

Nursing isn't just a career. Most nurses will tell you **it is a calling**.



It's time for a little *soul searching*. Do you regret pursuing a college *degree in another field*? Do you see someone in scrubs helping a patient and *wish it were you*?

If you have the heart and the drive... you might *have the qualities of a great nurse*, but you don't even know it (yet!).

Waitlisted? Lack confidence?

Don't Get In Your **OWN WAY**

Being waitlisted is discouraging. But it doesn't mean you have to stay sidelined. It just means **you need to find the program that is ready for you now.**



Major Regrets About Your Major?

Even if you took another path in the past, that doesn't mean you can't take the nursing path in the future. (And it won't take you 4 more years!)

*Be confident that you can do it!
You're already on the way...*

2

Leverage **YOUR EDUCATION**

Are you a **recent graduate or current student** who has decided to change course and go to nursing school? Don't think you have to throw away your hard work!

Find a program that **will embrace and make the most of your academic credentials.** Use what you have!



Remember:

Being waitlisted doesn't mean you have to stay sidelined!

Nursing school does not have to take 4 years to complete...

3

CONSIDER AN ABSN

With an ABSN, you can **have your degree in just 16 months of professional nursing study.*** (Really!)

**16 months of professional nursing curriculum assumes completion of nursing prerequisites;
includes hybrid, online curriculum*

ABSN



Admissions representatives estimate that students in an ABSN program become *working nurses within just 2 years* from the very first inquiry call.

An ABSN can get you *off the waitlist and into an accredited nursing school.*

How to get your ABSN...

4

FIND A DEDICATED Admissions Representative

Your ABSN admissions representative knows that schools need future nurses, not numbers. She's your **#1 advocate**.



Stop being a number. Your admissions representative knows you are more than your GPA.

“Students get so conditioned to think of nothing but their GPAs. I look for so much more than that—I find that hidden potential. It’s always there.”

—Brenna, admissions representative

She knows what she’s looking for...

She Sees the
NURSING STUDENT
Not Just the GPA

Your admissions representative is there to help **ease and streamline** your enrollment process. She'll **help and guide you**, every step of the way, from that **first call until your first day of classes**.



*You may not know your own potential—
but your admissions representative
does. (Hint: Listen to her!)*

*“I was waitlisted and had almost given
up. I’m so glad I made that phone call.
My Admissions Representative saw
something I didn’t, and here I am ready
to graduate from nursing school.”*

—Brittani, nursing student

*Your admissions representative’s
first bit of advice...*

5

STOP MAKING Assumptions About Your GPA

The right ABSN program with the right admissions representatives will perform a **whole-student transcript review**—meaning they look at more than those dreaded little numbers.



Don't disqualify yourself.

Remember: Numbers can't nurse!

ABSN admissions representatives look at

- Grades in relevant coursework
- Passion and patience
- Demonstrated growth as a student
- Your personal story

*Where you can find the right
admissions representative...*

6

ONLY CONSIDER ABSN Programs That:

- **ARE PART OF A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION**
This should be the **first question** you ask your admissions representative
- **HAVE (NURSING) PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION**



Get Help Finding the Right Program

There are many things to consider when finding the right nursing program. Talk to an admissions representative about the pros and cons of different programs.

Accredited? Approved?

A program being approved is not the same as a school being accredited—an approved program is not necessarily accredited.

States require approval for programs to operate. If a nursing program is not approved, it cannot be accredited. (The program can't even accept students.)

Why accreditation is so important...

Regional Accreditation **IS A MUST**

There's a huge list of reasons why accreditation—specifically regional accreditation—is important. Going to a school without regional accreditation usually leads to regrets.

- **DON'T LIMIT YOUR CAREER**

Not only could an unaccredited school keep you from getting *hired*, it could keep you from becoming *licensed*

- **DON'T THROW DOLLARS OUT THE WINDOW**

Unaccredited schools are often *not eligible* for federal and state financial aid programs

- **DON'T STOP YOUR EDUCATION JOURNEY**

Most graduate programs won't consider candidates from nationally accredited schools; regional accreditation ensures that you get the most value from your degree



Quality Counts

While accreditation is not mandatory, it is the *main indicator of quality*. If you choose a *regionally accredited ABSN program*, you will be allowed to sit for the NCLEX after graduation.

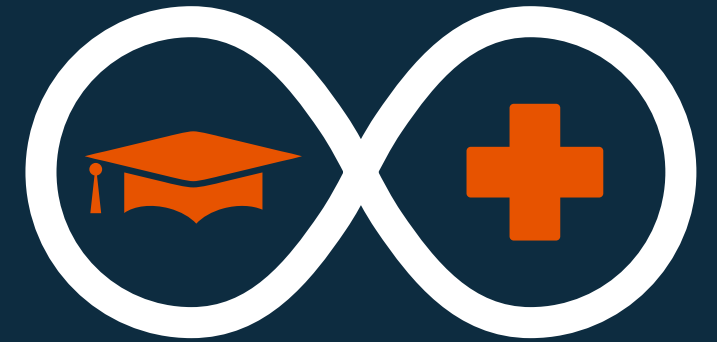
Note: If a school's main campus is accredited, so are its other campus locations.

**Find a school with
important partnerships...**

7

UNDERSTAND THE VALUE of Hospital Partnerships

Schools that **partner with hospitals** bring students value that's hard to measure. While students are completing in-hospital coursework, they are also **making impressions** and very important **post-graduate contacts**. Hospitals appreciate students from partnership programs.



Networking Tips:

- The health care field is filled with *people who care about others*. Consider each nurse you work with as a mentor, and *don't be afraid to ask career-related questions*.
- While performing in-hospital coursework, *you are also networking in a very organic way*. Making a good impression as a student *might get you a great job lead or reference*.
- Keep your ears open for *health care charity opportunities*. In addition to *learning and doing good deeds*, it's also a great way to *network and make contacts who may be beneficial in the future*.

*Learn about the
benefits of a hybrid curriculum...*



GET TO KNOW

the ABSN Curriculum

(and how it works)

Look for ABSN programs that use a **hybrid curriculum that blends online classes** with **simulated learning labs**, and **crucial *in-hospital, hands-on*** training. Schools partner with hospitals to give nursing students **real-life patient care experiences** in a number of settings.



What About Prereqs?

Ask an admissions representative to review your transcripts to *see if you need any prereqs* before you jump into an ABSN program.

(Admissions representatives have resources about where and when to take prereqs.)

It's the right time, so put yourself in the right place with the right people...

9

TARGET PROGRAMS That Encourage Peer Support

Today's Nursing Students Are Diverse

Nursing students come from **many different backgrounds** and are at **very different stages** in their lives. But a passion for nursing is all you need to have in common to form a bond.

Find a school where you have all of your classes with the **same 'cohort' of students**, so you **always have a familiar student support system**.

These days, nursing students are often:

- **Single young people** who want to make a difference
- **Parents** with busy family lives
- Seeking more **fulfillment after age 35**
- Former **lawyers, teachers, and social workers**



You want to
consider programs with:

- *Small class sizes*
- *A diverse student body*

The Right Program The Right Location

To find the right school with a great group of cohorts, explore areas away from home. Don't worry—there are enough ABSN programs that you can find one that fits where you are and where you want to be.

It's important to be well prepared...

10

ASK ABOUT

NCLEX Test Prep & Pass Rates

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is a not-for-profit organization that provides regulatory nursing school standards. To become a licensed nurse, they require *candidates to pass* the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).



Get Prepped

Talk to your admissions representative about *NCLEX resources* to make sure that you get into an *ABSN program that will fully prepare you to pass the test.*

Look for a school with an *NCLEX pass rate of at least 80%*. (Many ABSN programs have pass rates *higher than 85%*.)

The ABSN is a great option, but it's not free, so...

11

ASK ABOUT Financing ASAP

Don't put off questions about financing your ABSN. Many students (and parents) don't realize that **financing an ABSN is different** from how you financed your first bachelor's degree.



Seek Guidance

The best place to start is *asking your admissions representative about financing options. She can point you in the right direction, and offer valuable advice.*

Financing is never fun. Don't let it get you down and stray from your goals. Do yourself some financial favors, and:

- *Find resources online*
- *Share information with your parents*

Get ready for your first day of school...

12

PLAN YOUR Start Date

With **multiple start dates**, you can start and finish faster than the traditional route.



Seek Guidance

Another reason ABSN programs are only **16 months** is that they *allow multiple start dates*. You can start your ABSN program in:

- *Fall*
- *Spring*
- *Summer*

Once your **whole-student transcript review and prereqs** are out of the way, you'll get a **clear start-to-finish timeline** for completing your ABSN.

Should I stay or should I go?

13

GET MOVING

If You Need (or Want) To Relocate

Whether you want **a whole new school environment** or you don't live near a school with an ABSN program, talk to your admissions representative.



Ask if a school has any *affiliations or partnerships with apartment complexes*. If not, ask an *admissions representative where most of the other ABSN students live*.

“I was the most nervous about moving. I had always lived at home. Thankfully, my admissions representative connected me with some current students, and not only did I find an affordable apartment—I found a great roommate!”

—Hailey, ABSN student

You can do it alone – but you don't have to...

14

SURROUND YOURSELF with a Positive Support System

Never underestimate **the power of a support system**. Yes, you can technically get your ABSN completely on your own, but you'll be **so much more successful** if you know that ***it takes strength to ask for support.***



Even the smoothest application process can be stressful. That's why *smart students turn to:*

- *Friends and family* who have a positive outlook
- *Other nursing students* you know who inspire you
- *Online communities* filled with people in your shoes

Your biggest source of support (other than your parents)? *Your admissions representative.* She's seen, heard, and

What to do now...

15

START

Your Application Process

The sooner you start your ABSN search, **the sooner your dream of becoming a nurse can become a reality.** You know in your heart that this is what you want out of life—**you deserve to reach your goals** and feel great about it.



Now that you have the steps to follow, you know *where to start, and what to expect.*

Take the excitement you have for nursing and *share it with your parents.* Get them involved with your decision from the start, so you can *have their encouragement and earn their admiration!*

Now, get started...