Applying to Nursing Programs

Application Process in Brief:
Students typically apply to nursing school about a year before they expect to matriculate to nursing school (e.g. in the fall term during their last year of prerequisites). Nursing programs are becoming increasingly competitive with average GPA’s above a 3.6. Each program varies in how they review and admit applicants. Some programs focus on a prerequisite nursing GPA, while others look at an overall GPA. It is important to understand each program’s admission criteria prior to applying. Although most nursing programs allow prerequisites to be in progress during the application year, it is becoming more common that students are being admitted with the majority of prerequisites complete at the time of application. The best example of this is the Human Anatomy & Physiology requirement. In recent years, the majority of admitted students have had this requirement met by the application deadline. Most BSN programs are typically 2 years in length, but can be up to 3 years. Many of the nursing programs in Oregon hold information sessions for prospective students throughout the year. The information sessions are held to go over specific prerequisites, the application process and any additional program requirements. It is highly recommended that students plan to attend information sessions for each school they are applying to.

Nursing Central Application Service (NURSINGCAS):
NursingCAS (www.nursingcas.org) is the nation’s only centralized application service for students applying to nursing programs at all levels, from the diploma to the doctorate. NursingCAS offers students a convenient way to research and apply to multiple nursing schools with a single online application. NursingCAS will verify your application for accuracy, calculate your GPA, and send your materials to the Nursing programs you designate. For a list of participating programs, look at the Participating Programs section. Once you create an account with NursingCAS, you can access your application frequently in order to complete the required portion of the application. Specific instructions are available within each section of the application. There is also a Frequently Asked Questions section (FAQs) if you have specific questions about entering your information into the application. Currently, Linfield College and OHSU use NursingCAS.

Tips & Recommendations:
- Personally read the admission brochure and website of each of the nursing schools to which you plan to apply to obtain information on admissions requirements and deadlines and to determine if the school is a good fit for you.
- Participate in paid, volunteer, and/or shadowing experience in the healthcare field and in the community at large early on in your college experience. It is important that you understand the realities of the nursing field and illustrate through action your commitment to serving the community.
- Get involved with other students on campus – OrgSync https://orgsync.com/login/portland-state-university is your way to connect to student organizations, communicate with other members, and explore your community.
- Check periodically with the adviser for recent changes, remaining requirements to meet, and application procedures.
- Utilize free university resources such as the Learning Center, Writing Center, Career Center, and Academic Advisors.
- Begin completing financial aid forms as early as October; the priority filing deadline is March 1.

Additional Resources:
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing: http://www.aacnnursing.org/
- American College of Nurse Midwives: www.midwife.org
- Discover Nursing: www.discovernursing.com
- Explore Health Careers: www.explorehealthcareers.org
- NursingCAS: www.nursingcas.org
- Oregon State Board of Nursing: www.osbn.state.or.us/
- Oregon Center for Nursing: www.oregoncenterformnursing.org
- Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE): www.ocne.org
- Oregon Student Nurses Association www.oregonsna.org

Oregon Programs
Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE)

The Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE) is a partnership of community colleges and the OHSU School of Nursing. The Consortium was formed as part of the 2001 Strategic Plan of the Oregon Nursing Leadership Council (ONLC) in response to the critical nursing shortage.

- OCNE consists of a shared, competency-based curriculum taught on all consortium campuses. Through OCNE, students can complete their BSN coursework at OHSU or at any of the participating community college campuses and earn their BSN from OHSU.
- OCNE is currently a partnership of 11 community colleges and OHSU. Local programs include: Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, and Clackamas Community College. Students interested in applying to the community college programs will apply directly to each school.
- OCNE is a three year program – a combination of nursing and non-nursing courses.
- Most PSU students prepare for other (non-OCNE) programs and have completed most of the non-nursing courses that are required. This means that PSU students accepted to the OCNE program may progress through most of the OCNE program on a semi part-time basis.

Contact and Application Information for Oregon BSN Programs: There are six nursing schools in the local area. OHSU, Linfield, and Concordia also have accelerated bachelor’s programs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OHSU / OCNE</th>
<th>Linfield College</th>
<th>University of Portland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ohsu.edu/son">www.ohsu.edu/son</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.linfield.edu/Portland.html">https://www.linfield.edu/Portland.html</a></td>
<td><a href="http://nursing.up.edu/">http://nursing.up.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:proginfo@ohsu.edu">proginfo@ohsu.edu</a></td>
<td>Mindy Cowan Assistant Director of Admissions Portland Campus 503-413-7832 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mcowan@linfield.edu">mcowan@linfield.edu</a></td>
<td>BSN Nursing Program 503-943-7211 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nursing@up.edu">nursing@up.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCNE Applications available and accepted online:</strong> Early September <strong>Deadline:</strong> Mid February <em>(Check website for exact date)</em></td>
<td><em>Linfield uses the NursingCAS, which is a central application service for nursing schools.</em></td>
<td><strong>BSN applications accepted:</strong> September 1st <strong>Deadline:</strong> Mid January <em>(Check website for exact date)</em></td>
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<td>OHSU uses the NursingCAS, which is a central application service for nursing schools.</td>
<td><strong>There are three different start times for Linfield and two application periods.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Accelerated BSN and Accelerated Bachelors to Masters and Doctorate Program Applications available and accepted online:</strong> Early September <strong>Deadline:</strong> Early January <em>(Check website for exact date)</em></td>
<td><strong>Deadlines:</strong> check website for exact dates</td>
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<td><strong>Concordia University</strong> <a href="http://www.cu-portland.edu/hhs/undergraduate/nursing">http://www.cu-portland.edu/hhs/undergraduate/nursing</a> 503-280-8501 E-mail: <a href="mailto:admissions@cu-portland.edu">admissions@cu-portland.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>Walla Walla School of Nursing</strong> <a href="http://www.wallawalla.edu/academics/areas-of-study/undergraduate-programs/nursing">http://www.wallawalla.edu/academics/areas-of-study/undergraduate-programs/nursing</a> Email: <a href="mailto:portland.advising@wallawalla.edu">portland.advising@wallawalla.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>George Fox University</strong> <a href="http://www.georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/nursing/">http://www.georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/nursing/</a> 503-554-2950 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nursing@georgefox.edu">nursing@georgefox.edu</a></td>
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<td><strong>Application Deadline:</strong> check website for exact date</td>
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