

Frequently Asked Questions: Basic BSN Track

The BSN Basic Track application, curriculum plans, and program information are found on the NHS website (www.lcsc.edu/nurdiv). This document addresses questions routinely received by advisors and department staff. If your question is not addressed in this document, please contact your academic advisor or the NHS Advising Center at NHS@lcsc.edu or 208-792-2688.

Does LCSC have an “Accelerated BSN Program”? Do you have a program for previously degreed students?

LCSC does not have a program that is labeled “Accelerated”. Students with previous degrees follow the basic BSN curriculum plan. The basic program is a total of 8 semesters (4 semesters of prerequisites (longer if you need to take foundational math, English or science courses); 4 semesters of nursing coursework), with an average of 16 credits each semester. Those with previous degrees (bachelor’s or higher) are given credit in the admission process.

How difficult is it to be accepted into the LCSC BSN program?

Students are admitted twice annually. Applications are due in January and September each year. Application windows and admission criteria can be found in the Application link.

How can I improve my chances of being accepted?

The BSN program admission criteria focus on academic success in higher education. Therefore the factors considered for admission include cumulative GPA in the required science and statistical methods courses, cumulative GPA of all colleges attended, and a nursing entrance test. The most current admission criteria are listed in the application.

My GPA is low due to poor focus in my early college years. Does this old GPA need to be considered in admission? My grades are very good now.

All courses and grades will be considered when applying to the BSN program. Your academic advisor can assist you with the application process. If you have poor college performance, it is recommended that you complete an Internal Petition form to be submitted with your application. Explain the reasons for your past poor grades and include a discussion about changes you have made to ensure your success in the BSN program.

Where can I get my nursing assistant certification (C.N.A.)?

LCSC’s Workforce Training (www.lcsc.edu/wft) offers C.N.A. classes throughout the year. Local hospitals and long term care facilities sometimes offer training as part of an employment agreement. Students may complete C.N.A. training in any state; the state certificate must be submitted with your application.

I am an international student. Can I apply to the LCSC BSN program?

Of course! However, the requirements for foreign students entering U.S. colleges are sometimes difficult to meet. Please speak directly with the International Programs Office [intloff@lcsc.edu; 208-792-2321]. The iBT or IETLS test of language competency is required for admission to the BSN program [for all students for whom English is not the native and first language]. See details regarding the TOEFL or IETLS test in the Pre-Program Handbook on the NHS website.

I will transfer from another college/university. What steps should I take?

Visit the Registrar's web page for transfer students:

<http://www.lcsc.edu/admissions/transfer-students.htm>

I have taken courses at other colleges. Can those apply to your nursing admission requirements? Is there a way to know what courses from my local college will apply to the requirements for your nursing program?

Yes. Transfer credit may meet *General Education Core* requirements and/or *Nursing Support Course* requirements.

General Education Core coursework is evaluated by the Office of Admissions once you apply to the college. Transfer of credits for *Program Support Courses* is evaluated by an academic advisor once official transcripts have been received at the Office of Admissions. Transfer students must provide course descriptions for prerequisite or support courses taken outside the state of Idaho.

Course equivalency guides for Idaho and select regional colleges are found at

<http://www.lcsc.edu/admissions/transfer-students.htm>

I took a Genetics course at another college. Will that count for LCSC's Genetics for Health Sciences course?

Possibly – a course description verifying course content is necessary.

Can I attend the nursing program part time?

No. Once you are accepted into the BSN program, fulltime enrollment is required. If you step out of the program for any reason, you must reapply. Re-entry procedures are delineated in the Pre-Program Information & Policies and the NHS Student Handbook found on the web site.

I am currently enrolled in prerequisite courses. Can I still apply?

Yes. Please mark the course as "IP" or "In Progress" on the application. If the course is taken at a school other than LCSC, an official transcript must be sent to the Office of Admissions.

Can I take other classes while I take BSN classes?

No. The BSN curriculum is intense and requires a great deal of study and clinical time. Courses toward a second degree, for example should be integrated prior to entering the BSN program, during summer sessions, or after completion of the BSN coursework.

How much can I work while I am in the BSN program?

It is recommended that work commitments be secondary to scholastic commitments during the BSN program.

Do old classes 'expire'? Some of my classes are more than 10 years old.

Neither the college nor the BSN program sets a limit on the "age" of past coursework. Students are cautioned to carefully evaluate their knowledge from these older classes

How much travel is required of BSN students?

BSN students are expected to provide transportation to clinical sites. While some clinical agencies are in the immediate area, others are up to 100 miles from the main campus. Students should expect to commute at least two semesters. Students often carpool to clinical. Students also complete a brief clinical rotation in Spokane, Washington which requires an overnight stay. Accommodations and payment are coordinated by the department.

How much does it cost to attend the LCSC BSN program?

Information on college fees can be found at <http://www.lcsc.edu/controllersoffice/fee-tuition-sched.htm>. Special course fees for laboratory supplies, liability insurance, and assessment testing are attached to BSN courses. Additionally, nursing texts are expensive, particularly in the first semester of the program. The foundation textbooks are used throughout the program. However, each course thereafter typically requires at least one book.

Is student housing available at LCSC?

Contact Student Services for general college questions. The student website for housing can be found at: <http://www.lcsc.edu/studenthousing/>

May I take the entrance exam close to where I live? What steps do I need to take?

The test is available at distant locations. Details are in the Entrance Test information guide on the BSN Basic Track webpage (click the Application link).

Do you have an LPN to BSN track?

Yes. We have a completion track for those students who have earned an A.S. or A.A.S. degree and are licensed as a practical nurse. The LPN to BSN curriculum (nursing coursework) is 4 semesters in length. Pre-program coursework requires additional time. IV certification is required for LPN to BSN track admission (available through LCSC Workforce Training (www.lcs.edu/wft)). Courses are delivered on the main campus; there is no online option for the LPN to BSN track.

Military Personnel

The LCSC BSN program faculty works to assist currently enlisted military personnel to develop an appropriate completion plan.