



## ***Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN): Pathways to Acceptance***

The Department of Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University offers two admission pathways into the nationally recognized Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Students will have the opportunity to apply for: 1) direct admission into the nursing program as incoming freshmen or 2) admission into the nursing program during their sophomore year after completing required Liberal Education Program and prerequisite courses at Southern or another college or university.

The Direct Admissions process for Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University is inclusive. Our belief in the importance of a thorough and careful review of all aspects of your application reflects our mission as an intentionally diverse and comprehensive university, committed to access, social justice, and service for the public good. We seek to empower every undergraduate student with the knowledge, skills and perspectives essential for active participation and impassioned, ethical leadership, and our admission practices reflect that goal.

In review of applicants for Direct Admissions, we seek to learn about you through: the subject-specific courses you've completed; the level and rigor of those courses (including AP level courses and college-credit courses); your overall cumulative GPA (minimum 3.4); your academic profile (minimum course requirements indicated below), including extracurricular activities and leadership roles; and your personal statement.

The submission of SAT/ACT test results is optional at Southern. The Department of Nursing encourages applicants to submit their ACT/SAT scores if they wish to do so. Test score submission is not a requirement for Direct Admissions consideration, nor is there a penalty for not submitting test scores. In deciding whether or not to submit your standardized test scores, consider your overall academic record. Your decision should be based on whether you believe your scores are an accurate representation of your academic abilities.

Southern recognizes the Common Application (<https://apply.commonapp.org/login?ma=632>) as its own application form. When applying for Direct Admissions, please be advised that your submitted complete application, and the following supporting credentials, must be submitted by the application deadline, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021:

- Completed Common Application (please list awards, jobs, sports, extracurricular activities, leadership roles, unique factors to you, etc.)
- Official secondary school transcript, and minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA
- Recommendation letter from a teacher, counselor, or mentor who can reflect on your commitment and dedication to your education, work ethic, and aspirations/goals
- Personal statement (Common Application Essay) reflective of particular meaning or interest to you which emphasizes who you are, your values, goals, and future aspirations
- University application fee or official fee waiver
- SAT or ACT results (Optional)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is highly recommended if you have resided in the U.S. for fewer than three years and English is not your native language.

We regard your academic record from high school as the most important part of your application for admission. Although we certainly consider your final grade point average and overall record over four years, we do look

deeper, considering your performance during each year in high school, including academic rigor. We look for students who have challenged themselves personally and academically. Not only are your final grades considered, we look very carefully at the quality of the academic program you have pursued. Below are the minimum high school academic requirements required for Direct Admissions consideration.

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Mathematics
- 2 or more years of Science with labs
- 3 years in Social Sciences

While your academic record is clearly a critical element of the entire admission application, we are also interested in the personal qualities, talents and interests that you will bring to our campus community and the field of nursing. We want to know about your extracurricular involvement, the quality of your writing as reflected in the personal statement, and the reflections of teachers, counselors, and others who submit recommendations on your behalf.

Fall 2022 freshman applications completed and submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 will be considered for the direct admission pathway. Applications completed and submitted *after* December 1, 2021 will be processed on a rolling basis and considered for acceptance to the University with the opportunity to apply to the nursing program through the college application pathway. Direct admissions into the nursing program are limited due to program capacity. All those who apply and meet minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission to the program. Because our applicant pool increases each year, the admissions process remains very competitive and selective.

Students who are accepted to Southern, but not accepted for direct admission into the B.S. Nursing program, are invited to attend Southern as a Healthcare Studies major, and apply for admission into the nursing program through the college application pathway, at the end of their sophomore year.

### **How many students will Southern accept into the B.S. nursing program in 2022?**

Students complete the nursing courses within the B.S. nursing curriculum throughout their junior and senior year after completing all of their Liberal Education Program and nursing prerequisite courses. Southern's nursing program can accommodate 90 junior nursing students into the junior year nursing curriculum; approximately 50% will be admitted through the direct admission pathway and approximately 50% through the college application pathway.

### **What is the criteria for Direct Admission?**

Admissions considerations are based on the applicant's subject-specific courses completed; the level and rigor of those courses (including AP level courses and college-credit courses); the overall cumulative GPA (minimum 3.4); the academic profile (minimum course requirements indicated below), including extracurricular activities and leadership roles; and the personal statement. Below are the minimum high school academic requirements required for Direct Admissions consideration.

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Mathematics
- 2 or more years of Science with labs
- 3 years in Social Sciences

### **Is there a deadline for the direct admission application process into the B.S. Nursing degree program for fall 2022?**

All applicants who have a submitted and completed application by December 1, 2021 and indicate nursing as their major of first choice, will be given full consideration for direct admission into the B.S. Nursing degree program for fall 2022. A submitted and complete application will include the following:

- Completed Common Application (please list awards, jobs, sports, extracurricular activities, leadership roles, unique factors to you, etc.)
- Official secondary school transcript, and minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA
- Recommendation letter from a teacher, counselor, or mentor who can reflect on your commitment and dedication to your education, work ethic, and aspirations/goals
- Personal statement (Common Application Essay) reflective of particular meaning or interest to you which emphasizes who you are, your values, goals, and future aspirations
- University application fee or official fee waiver
- SAT or ACT results (Optional)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is highly recommended if you have resided in the U.S. for fewer than three years and English is not your native language.

### **Am I required to submit any additional application materials if I am applying for direct admission into the B.S. Nursing degree program for fall 2022?**

Outside of the above listed information, and meeting the minimum academic requirements for consideration, there are no additional application materials needed in order to be considered for direct admissions.

### **What criteria must direct admit students achieve in order to progress into the BSN upper division major courses in the B.S. Nursing program? [See note below]**

Students, who are admitted to the B.S. Nursing Program through the Direct Admission application pathway, must achieve the following at the end of Fall semester of Sophomore year in order to progress into the BSN upper division major courses:

- 1) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 [and]
- 2) Completion of at least 7 of the 11 required pre-requisite courses with a C+ or greater [and]
- 3) No more than 2 pre-requisite course repeats due to grade less than C+

Direct admission students, who do not meet the above criteria, and still wish to major in nursing at SCSU, will need to re-apply for admission to the nursing program as outlined in Step 2 of the college admission pathway application process, and meet those minimum qualifications:

- 1) Complete BSN Nursing Application, which is accessible on the Nursing Department's home page, and submit by February 1<sup>st</sup>. All information pertaining to the application will be provided on the application itself.
- 2) TEAS exam completed through ATI testing with score submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>

NOTE: Admission to the nursing program is competitive. We limit the number of students admitted so that we can provide a quality education experience with small class sizes and robust clinical placement experiences in area healthcare facilities. Although the minimum CUM GPA required is 3.4 for the direct admission application and 3.0 for college application, the CUM GPA for those admitted to the program is typically much higher. Selection through the college application pathway is determined by CUM college GPA, GPA in just the nursing prerequisite courses, and the TEAS exam score. The number of repeated pre-requisite courses are also taken into consideration. If a student has more than 2 pre-requisite course repeats due to grade less than C+, the student is not eligible to apply via the college admission application pathway.