



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 admission application pathway is available to all high school senior students who are applying to Southern. Admission offers for direct admission are based on the student's high school transcript and supplemental essay question. No additional application materials are required for the application for direct admission into the B.S. in nursing degree program. SAT/ACT score reports are optional for fall 2021 admissions. Applicants should apply to the university through the Common App and indicate nursing as their major of first choice.

Fall 2021 freshman applications submitted on or before January 2, 2021 will be considered for the direct admission pathway. Completed applications will be notified of admission beginning February 8th, 2021. Applications submitted after January 2, 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.

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 2021?

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?

High school applicants with a CUM GPA of 3.2 or higher will be considered for Direct Admissions into the nursing program. Direct admits will be selected based on: 1) High school GPA; [and] 2) science and math courses completed and grades; [and] 3) supplemental common app essay.

Is there a deadline for the direct admission application process into the B.S. Nursing degree program for fall 2021?

All applicants who apply on or before January 2, 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 2021.

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 2021?

Students should complete the Common App and submit their response to the supplemental essay question: "In

250 words or less, please describe your commitment and motivations for pursuing a career in nursing.”

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 1st. 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 1st

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 3.2 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.