

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

DIRECT ENTRY TO INITIAL RN LICENSURE

If you already have a bachelor's degree in another field and are ready for a new professional direction, Viterbo's Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing program offers a path to turn your education into a career focused on caring for others.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Viterbo's Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing program helps you turn your bachelor's degree in another field into a pathway to becoming a registered nurse in just 21 months.

Through a blend of online coursework, hands-on labs, and in-person clinical experiences with leading regional health systems, you'll develop the skills to deliver safe, holistic, patient-centered care. Learn from approachable faculty with diverse clinical expertise while building the knowledge, confidence, and professional nursing identity to address complex health challenges and promote health equity. With an accelerated pathway to initial RN licensure and a master's degree, you'll be prepared to begin your nursing career with opportunities for future growth and leadership.

Program Highlights

21-Month Accelerated Program
Make a career change and prepare to enter the nursing profession in less than two years.

Flexible Hybrid Learning
Combine online coursework with in-person clinical experiences and labs.

Hands-On Clinical Experience
Apply your knowledge in real-world health care settings while developing essential nursing skills.

High NCLEX Pass Rates
Prepare for the national licensing exam with a curriculum designed to build nursing knowledge and clinical readiness.

COMMON CAREER PATHS

- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Hospital Staff Nurse
- Outpatient or Clinic Nurse
- Emergency Department Nurse
- Community or Public Health Nurse
- Occupational Health Nurse

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Program Structure

The Direct Entry MSN is an accelerated, full-time cohort model. Courses and clinicals are lock-step and offered only once per year. Classes meet virtually, however all skills labs and clinical courses meet weekly in person in the La Crosse region. Students in the program will want to live within a commutable distance.

COURSE SEQUENCE SCHEDULE		
Fall – Semester 1 (13 cr.)	**Spring – Semester 2 (14 cr.)**	**Summer – Semester 3 (13 cr.)**
NURS 501 – Nursing Ways of Knowing* (3 cr.)	NURS 521 – Pharmacology* (3 cr.)	NURS 512 – Nursing Informatics Awareness and Social Justice* (3 cr.)
NURS 513 – Pathophysiology* (3 cr.)	NURS 536 – Holistic Care of the Well Patient (didactic)* (3 cr.)	NURS 538 – Integrative Healing in Nursing Practice (didactic)* (3 cr.)
NURS 522 – Holistic Nursing Health Assessment (didactic)* (3 cr.)	NURS 537 – Holistic Care of the Well Patient (clinical) (4 cr.)	NURS 539 – Integrative Healing in Nursing Practice (clinical) (4 cr.)
NURS 523 – Holistic Nursing Health Assessment (skills lab) (1 cr.)	NURS 642 – Interprofessional Communication and Health Care Partnerships* (4 cr.)	NURS 560 – Leading Change: Applying Evidence to Practice* (3 cr.)
NURS 531 – Health Promotion Across the Lifespan* (3 cr.)		
Fall – Semester 4 (12 cr.)	**Spring – Semester 5 (11 cr.)**	
NURS 514 – Climate Change and Health: Global Awareness and Social Justice* (3 cr.)	NURS 548 – Capstone Experience (clinical) (4 cr.)	
NURS 526 – Population Health in the Community (didactic)* (3 cr.)	NURS 584 – Transition to Professional Nursing Practice* (2 cr.)	
NURS 528 – Population Health in the Community (clinical) (4 cr.)	NURS 672 – Prototyping and Change Management: Scholarly Project II* (2 cr.)	
NURS 671 – Innovation and Project Design: Scholarship Project I* (2 cr.)	NURS 663 – Professional Nursing Leadership and Health Care Delivery* (3 cr.)	
TOTAL MSN CREDITS 63		

*Denotes online course

Pre-enrollment Coursework

Required pre-enrollment coursework must be completed or in progress at the time of application. All coursework must have a grade earned of C or better and official transcripts submitted.

- Anatomy and Physiology 1 with lab◆ and Anatomy and Physiology 2 with lab◆
- Chemistry with lab◆
- Microbiology with lab◆
- Developmental Psychology/ Life Span Psychology
- Statistics

◆Science courses **must** be completed in the last five years.

Financial Aid

This program is eligible for federal graduate level financial aid (federal student loans). Students wishing to explore financial aid are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA code 003911) and Viterbo University's Additional Information form. For questions regarding financial aid, call 608-796-3900.

Apply for Admission

Visit *viterbo.edu/gradadmissions* for information on graduate program admissions requirements and how to apply. To start your free application visit *viterbo.edu/apply.*