

Normandale Community College

Professional Nursing Associate of Science (AS) Degree

Admission and Application Requirements

Program Description:

The Normandale Nursing Department educates students to become entry-level professional nurses. The nursing curriculum is a concept-based, spiraled curriculum that is designed to present and reinforce the knowledge necessary for successful and safe nursing practice.

Graduates are prepared to write the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN), and, upon success, may begin practice as registered nurses. As part of the program's commitment to equity, holistic admission practices are utilized in granting program admission. Supervised clinical experiences are provided in various settings, including but not limited to rehabilitation, long-term care, and acute care. Acute care experiences vary but may include units such as mental health, orthopedics, medical-surgical, pediatrics, and obstetrics.

Graduates are eligible to apply to baccalaureate nursing programs in the Minnesota State system as part of the Minnesota State Nursing Articulation Agreement. Students may opt to complete the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum while completing the nursing program, which prepares them to seamlessly transfer to [Minnesota State University, Mankato, to complete their BSN](#) with only the upper-division nursing courses remaining.

Reasonable accommodations may be available for individuals with disabilities. Information is available in the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) at 952-358-8625.

Normandale's nursing program is approved by the Minnesota Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3390 Peachtree Rd NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, Georgia 30326. Contact at 404-975-5000 or online at [ACENursing.org](#).

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Normandale Nursing Website: normandale.edu/nursing

Application Dates:

Fall Semester:

Applications Accepted: **March 1 - April 15**
Email Decision Notifications Sent: Early June

Spring Semester:

Applications Accepted: **September 1 - October 15**
Email Decision Notifications Sent: Early January

Applicants to the nursing program grant Normandale the right to communicate about the status of their application via personal and [student email](#) addresses.

Students should make sure their contact information is up to date in [e-Services](#) under “Account Management”.

Admission Information:

- Normandale admits **48 students** every fall and spring semester and typically receives **200 to 250 applications**.
- PSEO students who meet application requirements may apply for the nursing program, but must graduate from high school before starting nursing (NURS) courses.
- Because of the competitive nature of the program, students are encouraged to work with their [assigned Academic Advisor](#) to create a parallel plan for another major or program.
- Applicants who are not accepted into the nursing program and have met the application requirements will be placed on a ranked alternate list. Applicants who are placed on the alternate list but are not accepted into the program will need to reapply to be considered for any future semester that starts.

Application Requirements:

- [General admission/acceptance](#) to Normandale Community College is by [completing the online application](#).
- Students who have not enrolled within the last two years will have their admissions status **deactivated**. All students, regardless of previous enrollment, will need to reapply to Normandale to reactivate their admission status.
- Submission of all official transcripts from private colleges, out-of-state colleges, or the University of Minnesota to the [Records Office](#).
- Official transcripts from [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#) will be automatically retrieved and do not need to be sent to Normandale.
- Applicants with [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#), [College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#), and [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) credit must also submit official scores.
- Applicants with international credits must have them evaluated by an approved education credential evaluator, such as [WES](#) or [ECE](#), and then submit them to the Records Office.
- Have the four prerequisite courses completed or in progress at the time of application submission, while also meeting grade and GPA requirements. **Page 3**
- Take the most recent version ATI TEAS exam and have the scores submitted to Normandale. **Page 4**
- Submit the online [holistic admissions application](#) during the appropriate application cycle. Late applications will not be accepted. **Page 6**
- Students with an active Academic Suspension hold will not have their applications scored.
 - Students must also have resolved any Academic Suspensions before the first date of classes to continue in the nursing program once admitted.

Prerequisite Courses, GPA, & Grade Requirements:

Applicants applying for a **fall semester start** must have prerequisite courses completed or in progress during the spring semester in which they apply. Applicants completing prerequisite courses during the summer semester will have to wait to apply for the spring semester.

Applicants applying for a **spring semester start** will have a very short time between notification (in December, after fall final grades are due) and spring semester start (early January). Spring applicants are encouraged to take prerequisite courses at Normandale to ensure all final grades are received in time for application decisions.

- Applicants must earn a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher in the four courses below.
- All courses for the nursing program must have a C grade or higher; C-minus grades and below will not be accepted.
 - Equivalent transfer courses that have shaded grades (+/-) will be calculated into GPA using the GPA pts shown in the chart.
 - Students with advanced placement (AP) credits will be calculated as such: 5=A, 4=B, 3=C.
 - Pass (P) grades will be calculated as C grades for GPA.
 - For repeated coursework, the highest grade achieved will be used for GPA.

Grade	GPA Pts
A+, A, AP Score of 5	4.0
A-	3.67
AB	3.5
B+	3.33
B, AP Score of 4	3.0
B-	2.67
BC	2.5
C+	2.33
C, Pass (P), CLEP Courses, AP Score of 3	2.00

The following courses must be **completed or in progress** at the time of application:

Course # / Title	Prerequisites	Credits
ENG 1101 College Writing*	ENG 0960 or college-level English placement	4
CHEM 1050 Foundations of Organic and Biochemistry (CHEM 1061 Principles of Chemistry 1 will also be accepted)	CHEM 1020 or complete Chemistry self-assessment for review to be placed into CHEM 1050	3
BIOL 2041 Human Anatomy**	CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061 or concurrent registration (Student Services assistance needed for concurrent registration) and college-level English placement	4
PSYC 1050 Intro to Human Development (PSYC 2210 Developmental Psychology will also be accepted)	None	3

*Students from institutions with Composition/Writing 1 and 2 courses will likely need to complete both courses to receive credit for ENG 1101 College Writing.

Students completing an equivalent sequence of Anatomy & Physiology 1 **and Anatomy & Physiology 2 at another college or university must have Anatomy & Physiology 2 complete or in progress at the time of application. The grades received in Anatomy & Physiology 1 and Anatomy and Physiology 2 will be averaged for GPA calculation.

Note about online credit vendors (such as StraighterLine or Sophia Learning): Science courses with labs will be accepted as elective science credit, and may apply toward the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum goal requirements. For students pursuing a Health Science program, such as Nursing or Dental Hygiene, science courses with labs do not meet specific program requirements, including CHEM 1020, 1050, CHEM 1061, CHEM 1062, BIOL 2041, BIOL 2042, BIOL 2043, and BIOL 2044.

Math Recommendations:

While math is not a required course for the nursing program, having strong math skills is important for doing well on the ATI TEAS exam and being successful in nursing courses. It is recommended that applicants have at least college-level math placement. Students seeking transfer to baccalaureate nursing programs within the Minnesota State system will be required to complete a Goal 4 Mathematical/Logical Reasoning course as a part of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC).

Last Updated 03/05/2026 MS

ATI TEAS:

Along with prerequisite courses and GPA requirements, students seeking admission to the nursing program at Normandale Community College must take the Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) **before applying to the program**. The TEAS is a timed, computerized exam that includes **Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English & Language Usage** needed for entry-level nursing students.

- No minimum score required, although the TEAS score does impact applicant ranking.
- A student's highest score will be used. Students may take the exam as many times as they want. If a student wants to retake the exam, there is no wait time required between attempts.
- Results from the newest version of the TEAS exam are required before applying to the nursing program. Version 7 of the TEAS exam was released in June 2022 and is the current requirement for all applicants.
- Students should allow for at least 4 hours to take the exam; results are available immediately.
- The exam currently costs \$97 when taken through Normandale (subject to change). If a student takes the exam through ATI or another institution, they must pay the cost of the exam plus an additional \$29.99 fee (subject to change) to have the score transcript sent to Normandale.
- **Official TEAS score transcripts need to be on file at Normandale by the application deadline.** Students can review their ATI accounts to verify that their scores have been sent to Normandale.
- The TEAS can be taken in person or proctored remotely. Students taking the exam remotely must have the internet, Google Chrome, a webcam, a microphone, and a private space in which to take the exam.
- Students needing accommodations and taking the exam through Normandale should contact the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#). Students needing accommodations and taking the exam through ATI should [contact ATI directly](#).

Students will create an account, register for dates/times, and pay for the exam through atitesting.com. This is also where they can request score transcripts if they complete the exam at different locations or online.

ATI TEAS Preparation Resources		
It is highly recommended that students prepare for the exam. These are a few of the many resources available to get started.		
ATI TEAS Prep Materials	Varying costs and materials available	atitesting.com/teas/teas-prep
LearningExpress Database	Free database with TEAS practice tests - Account creation is required, but can be done with a personal email account	Link for the database
Metro North ABE TEAS Prep Course	A free course that is typically offered in an online format	https://www.metronorthabe.org/start-classes/health-care-career-pathway-classes/ati-teas-test-prep
Open Aleks	Free online math refresher modules	bit.ly/openaleksstudentinfo
Pocket Prep	Free mobile app	pocketprep.com/exams/ati-teas/
Khan Academy	Free online refresher courses	khanacademy.org
Test-Guide	Free TEAS practice tests	test-guide.com/free-teas-practice-tests.html

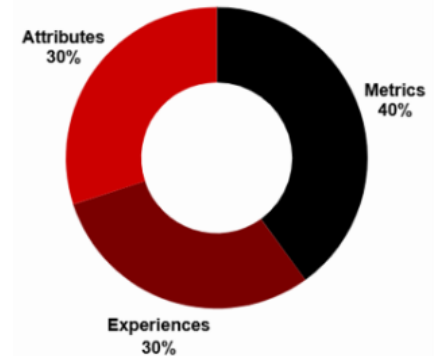
More TEAS Information:

normandale.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/nursing/ati-teas-pre-test.html

Normandale Holistic Admissions Criteria:

Essays must be **1520 characters (about 250 words)** or less and should be copied and pasted from a program with a spell and grammar check function; however, spelling and grammar do not impact applicant scoring. Essays should not include names or other identifying information. The [Student Writing Center](#) is here to help with reviewing and support for essay questions!

****List up to five experiences that were most impactful for you. Provide the name of the organization, title of role/experience, and timeframe of involvement. You will be asked to describe in 600 characters (about 100 words) or fewer the impact(s) these experiences had on you in terms of your commitment to nursing. The degree must be completed at the time of application to earn points. Need help finding volunteer or internship opportunities? Connect with Normandale's [Center for Experiential Education](#).**



Metrics- 40%	GPA of Prerequisite Courses: Applicants must earn a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher in the four prerequisite courses. All courses must have C grades or higher; C grades and below are not accepted. ATI TEAS Score: Scores from the current version of the TEAS must be submitted to Normandale. No minimum score required, but score does impact applicant ranking.
Experiences- 30%	Challenges/Obstacles Essay* Describe one or several personal lived experiences outside of work and school. Please share how you embraced growth, resilience, integrity, and tenacity (GRIT) and how this demonstrates your determination and commitment to becoming a nurse. Work/Volunteer Service**: Please list <u>up to 5 experiences</u> and include the (1) name of the organization, (2) title of role/experience, and (3) timeframe of involvement/when you earned your certification/education. Examples include but are not limited to: - Community Engagement/Experience (volunteer work to support the community) - Healthcare or Service Experience, such as nursing assistant (NA/CNA/Home Health Aid), medical assisting (MA or CMA), licensed practical nurse (LPN), phlebotomist, emergency medical technician (EMT). - military service - wait staff, bartender, barista, hair stylist, customer service, taxi/ride share driver, etc.) Formal Education Completed: Earned any one of these earned degrees from an accredited college and/or university: Certificate/Diploma, Associate's degree (AA, AS, AFA, AAS), Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS), Master's Degree (MA, MS, M. Ed, MSW), or Professional/ Doctoral (MD, PhD, EdD).
Attributes- 30%	Intellectual Curiosity/Other Educational & Training Experiences: List up to 5 educational or training experiences that have had the most impact on you, even if they do not seem directly related to nursing. Include the name of the organization, the timeframe of the experience, and how this added value in your future career as a nurse. Do not include required work or school experiences; this was included in the work/volunteer experience section of the application. Examples include but are not limited to: - Certifications/trainings such as CLS/PALS, conflict resolution, computer software, project management, diversity, equity, and inclusion training, interpreter training [second language/American Sign Language], etc. - Academic coursework outside of prerequisites, community education, independent reading, research, or other examples that demonstrate skills for personal and intellectual exploration. Teamwork, Collaboration, and Accountability Essay* Describe a situation in your life that demonstrates your commitment to teamwork, collaboration, and accountability. What was your role, and what was the outcome of this experience? Beliefs and Values Essay* Describe a situation or experience that inspired you to be a nurse and prepared you to care for all individuals. Please include descriptions of your actions and how they impact the dignity, worth, and human rights of the individuals involved.

Nursing Program Application Metrics:

GPA	GPA Preparedness Level
< 2.75	Not eligible for program admission
2.75 – 3.14	Proficient Moderate level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content
3.15 – 3.54	Advanced High level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content
3.55 – 4.0	Exemplary Very high level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content

TEAS Range %	TEAS Preparedness Level
< 58.7	Basic or Developmental Low or very low level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content
58.7 – 79.9	Proficient Moderate level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content
80 – 91.9	Advanced High level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content
92 - 100	Exemplary Very high level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of health sciences-related content

- The student would need to move into a new preparedness level to see an increase in their metric score on the application
- Students who reapply are in a new applicant pool for blind review and scoring of applications. This means previously submitted applications are not recycled, there is a new group of applicants, and application reviewers do not know whose applications they are scoring.

Nursing Program Application Metrics: Essay Question Examples

Prompt Used: Challenges/Obstacles Essay* Describe one or several personal lived experiences outside of work and school. Please share how you embraced growth, resilience, integrity, and tenacity (GRIT) and how this demonstrates your determination and commitment to becoming a nurse.

**These examples were not copied from previous applicants.*

Basic	I was born and raised in South Detroit and boarded a train going anywhere. I ended up in the Twin Cities and had to adapt to a new city and culture. I needed to meet new people from all over the world, including a small-town girl living in a lonely world. It was hard starting fresh, and it took a long time to feel stable after all the changes. This experience taught me to never stop believing and that challenges help us grow.
Proficient	My mother has had a great impact on me and was my inspiration to work in healthcare. She is an award-winning general surgeon, but she started to show signs of early-onset dementia. I knew there would be challenges for her and me as her only family member. I took over her finances and helped her find a care facility that could provide her with the care she needed and deserved. When this happened, I was working on getting into nursing school and knew I needed help to give her the best life possible and to complete my education to show her that I am capable of working in healthcare. I grew from this situation by seeing how the nurses cared for her at the facility, kept moving forward with my education, only lost my composure a few times, and I keep moving forward in life after these challenges.
Advanced	I was attempting to get home one day during a ferocious snowstorm when I saw a car crash. I pulled over immediately to help the driver get out of the damaged car. This was a very isolated mountain town, and the crash happened on a less-traveled road. I knew I needed to bring the driver to safety. The safest and closest location was my home, where I treated their injuries to the best of my ability with basic first aid. They were in misery, and we could not get help. I made them as comfortable as possible with their pain, causing aggressive outbursts. I kept my cool and continued to care for them to prevent further injuries. Their health and recovery had become my priority.
Exemplary	I grew up in a rural community where modern medicine was not trusted. On the family farm, I endured countless injuries that left permanent scars from farm equipment and animals. After getting bucked off a horse, I sustained several external and internal injuries. The treatment of these grueling injuries used homeopathic remedies, and it is a miracle that I lived through these treatments without modern medicine. With the suffering from my injuries and that of my community members, I knew things could be better, and I wanted to make the world a better place. After careful consideration, I left my community to pursue a career in nursing. I knew that I did not have the experience or knowledge of modern healthcare and that stepping out of my community would be difficult, but I knew that this career path would help people like me who needed access to quality healthcare. I demonstrated growth by reflecting on my current skills and embracing the challenges of moving to a large city far from home. After I arrived, I did not know a soul and had no family nearby, but my resilience and tenacity kept pushing me through the obstacles I faced with the culture shock, adapting to modern society, and keeping my integrity for caring for all people as my center and motivation for the challenges ahead.

Other Required General Education Courses:

The following courses can be taken before being admitted to the nursing program. These do not need to be completed before applying or being admitted, but having them done beforehand can help lighten a student's credit load once in the nursing program.

All courses for the nursing program must have a C grade or higher; C minus grades and below will not be accepted.

Course # / Title	Prerequisites	Credits
BIOL 2042 Human Physiology	BIOL 2041 and CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	4
BIOL 2044 Introductory Microbiology (BIOL 2043 Microbiology will also be accepted)	BIOL 2041 and CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	3
PHIL 1180 Biomedical Ethics	None	3
COMM 1131 Intercultural Communication	Recommended: COMM 1111 and college-level English placement	3
ANTH 1899 Medical Anthropology, or SOC 1104 Introduction to Sociology	ANTH 1899 - Recommended: college-level English placement SOC 1104 - ENGC 0960 or college-level English placement	3

Course substitutions may be allowed for students with similar coursework and a related degree and/or work/volunteer/personal experience through submission of an [Academic Petition](#) and supporting documentation. Students should also include a syllabus for any course being petitioned that was not taken through Normandale.

Credit Considerations:

- To graduate with the Professional Nursing Associate of Science (AS) degree, students must have at least **30 credits from the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC)**.
 - Most or all of these credits will be taken with the program's prerequisite and required general education courses.
 - However, students who have taken BIOL 2041 Human Anatomy without MnTC goal area designation or have transfer credits may need additional MnTC courses to reach 30 credits.
- Students seeking **transfer to baccalaureate nursing programs** within the Minnesota State system are encouraged to complete the full Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC), including all 10 goal areas with at least 40 credits.
- Students are encouraged to check their [Degree Audit](#) in [eServices](#) for the remaining requirements and credits.
- Use [Transferology](#) to check how transfer courses will be counted at Normandale.
- Note about online credit vendors** (such as StraighterLine or Sophia Learning): For students pursuing a Health Science program, such as Nursing or Dental Hygiene, science courses with labs do not meet specific program requirements, including CHEM 1020, 1050, CHEM 1061, CHEM 1062, BIOL 2041, BIOL 2042, BIOL 2043, and BIOL 2044.

[Academic Advisors](#) can assist with questions on application and graduation requirements. normandale.edu/advising

Requirements Upon Acceptance/Admittance:

- Attend nursing orientation - admitted students will not be able to register for nursing (NURS) courses until they have attended nursing orientation.
- Submit health and immunization records - including proof of required vaccinations.
- Complete a background check.
- Submit current CPR certification (Basic Life Support [BLS] Provider).

Course Sequence While in the Program:

Nursing (NURS) courses must be completed in the order listed and are not available in the summer. General education courses can be completed before being admitted to the nursing program or in an earlier semester than listed.

For example, BIOL 2042 and 2044 can be taken before being admitted to the nursing program, but if not completed before starting the nursing program, they must be completed in Semester 1 before being able to move on to Semester 2 nursing courses.

Semester 1	Credits
NURS 1000 Role of the Professional Nurse	2
NURS 1051 Foundations of Health Assessment	3
BIOL 2042 Human Physiology	4
BIOL 2044 Introductory Microbiology	3

<i>Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) students receive 4 advanced standing credits and take NURS 1020 Transition to the Role of Professional Nurse (1 cr.) in place of NURS 1000 and 1051.</i>	12
Semester 2	Credits
NURS 1101 Health Promotion	5
NURS 1151 Parent-Child Nursing	3
PHIL 1180 Biomedical Ethics	3
COMM 1131 Intercultural Communication	3

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Semester 3	Credits
NURS 2000 Chronic and Palliative Care	4
NURS 2010 Chronic and Palliative Care Experiential	4
NURS 2050 Pharmacology and the Role of the Professional Nurse	2
ANTH 1899 Medical Anthropology, or	3
SOC 1104 Introduction to Sociology	

	13
Semester 4	Credits
NURS 2100 Acute and Complex Care	4
NURS 2110 Acute and Complex Care Experiential	4
NURS 2200 Synthesis Theory and Experiential	3

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Upon completion of Semester 4, students will be eligible for the **Associate of Science (AS) Nursing degree**, to write the **National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX-RN)**, and apply to **baccalaureate nursing (RN to BSN)** programs.

Current partnership for online RN to BSN completion with [Minnesota State Mankato](#)
International Students you will need to find an RN to BSN Program that is offered in person. Here are some options-

[Metro State University](#)

[Minnesota State Moorhead](#)

[University of Minnesota Rochester](#)

[St. Catherine University](#)

[Saint Scholastica](#)

Please make sure to check out the **Nursing Club** on campus!
You can contact them by emailing NursingClub@Normandale.edu