

# Alternate Routes into the Field of Nursing

(pre-licensure options)

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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

# Various Routes to Nursing Licensure

- ❖ **Traditional B.S.N. program**
  - Bachelor's; Requires transferring from SHU to another institution with BSN program
- ❖ **Second Degree / Accelerated Program in Nursing**
  - Post-bachelor's; NO background in Nursing required
- ❖ **Clinical Nurse Leader Program**
  - Post-bachelor's; NO background in Nursing required
- ❖ **Pre-licensure Master's Degree in Nursing M.S.N. program**
  - Post-bachelor's; NO background in Nursing required
  - Admission criteria usually more demanding than second degree programs
- ❖ **Associate's Degree with L.P.N. licensure**
  - 2 year program at community/county college or vocational/technical institute
  - Can obtain employment as LPN in hospital with requirement that a BSN be completed within specific timeframe for further employment (timeframe different for each hospital/employment setting)
- ❖ **Licensing Program affiliated with specific hospital program or via a military career**

# Career Path Options to Becoming a Nurse

Discover Nursing website is a great resource to get started:  
<https://www.discovernursing.com/starting-out#.VzYoJiE3oXg>

## 2 Choose your nursing school and apply



Here are the different paths you can take to become a Registered Nurse:

- **Get your Associate of Science Degree in Nursing (ASN/ADN):** it takes two to three years and qualifies you to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN)
- **Get your Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN):** it takes four years at a college or university and prepares you for bedside and leadership roles. You'll also be qualified to take your NCLEX-RN.
- **Get your Master of Science in Nursing (MSN):** it takes two years at a college or university, after you earn your BSN. It qualifies you to work as a Nurse Educator or manager, and is a prerequisite to get your PhD.
- **Go through a hospital:** earning your Nursing Diploma takes approximately three years through a participating hospital. You'll likely take your courses at a nearby school.
- **Go through the Military:** You can train for two, three, or four years in an ROTC Nursing program at a college or university.

Another way to start your nursing career is by first becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse/ Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN).

- As a **Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN)**, you can start working in the profession as early as one year after you begin your training. You'll need to enroll in a Vocational training program or LPN School, which will qualify you to take your National Council Licensure Examination – Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN). Working as an LPN/LVN is a great way to gain experience, and many hospitals have funding opportunities available to help LPNs/LVNs continue their education.

Here are some tips to help you decide on a school:

- **Visit the school website or campus that interests you the most.**
- **Find out which entrance exams they require, such as the SAT, ACT, or others.**
- **Know the application deadlines by checking the school's website or contacting them.**
- **Give yourself options by applying to more than one school, or check out [nursing schools without waiting lists](#).**

FIND YOUR SCHOOL

# Use *Discover Nursing* website to Search for a Program

Searching for Specific Programs by Degree, Type of Program and State  
(from *Discover Nursing* website):

<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>

There are 2,043 nursing schools.

showing: **ALL DEGREE PROGRAMS** ▼ **at ALL TYPES OF SCHOOLS** ▼ **In (1) LOCATIONS** ▼ **SEE ALL SCHOOLS**



- Nursing Diploma
- LPN
- ADN/ASN
- BS/BSN
- RN to BSN
- MSN
- Doctoral
- Postgraduate
- Postdoctoral
- Refresher Courses
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner



- at (1) TYPES OF SCHOOLS** ▼
- Public
- Private
- Online
- On Campus
- No Waiting List



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<input type="checkbox"/> RI	<input type="checkbox"/> VT	<input type="checkbox"/> SD	<input type="checkbox"/> WI	<input type="checkbox"/> VA	<input type="checkbox"/> WV
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<input type="checkbox"/> WY					

# Use *Discover Nursing* website to Search for a Program in New Jersey

Listing of All Degree Levels and Types of Nursing Programs located in the state of **New Jersey**:

<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#national=national&locations=nj>

Sample  
snapshot of  
beginning of list

SCHOOL NAME	DEGREE	TYPE	LOCATION
<a href="#">Atlantic Cape Community College</a>	ASN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Atlantic County Institute of Technology</a>	LPN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Atlantic County Vocational &amp; Technical School</a>	LPN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Bayonne Medical Center School of Nursing</a>	Diploma	Private, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Bergen Community College</a>	ASN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Bloomfield College</a>	BSN	Private, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Brookdale Community College</a>	ASN, LPN-to-RN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast
<a href="#">Burlington County College</a>	ASN, LPN-to-RN	Public, On Campus	NJ/Northeast



# Use NJCCN\* website to Search for a Program in New Jersey

Listing by counties of all NJ Institutions offering Nursing programs. Includes links to each institution's website with more information on types of programs and degree levels offered

<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program/>

Sample snapshot of specific search

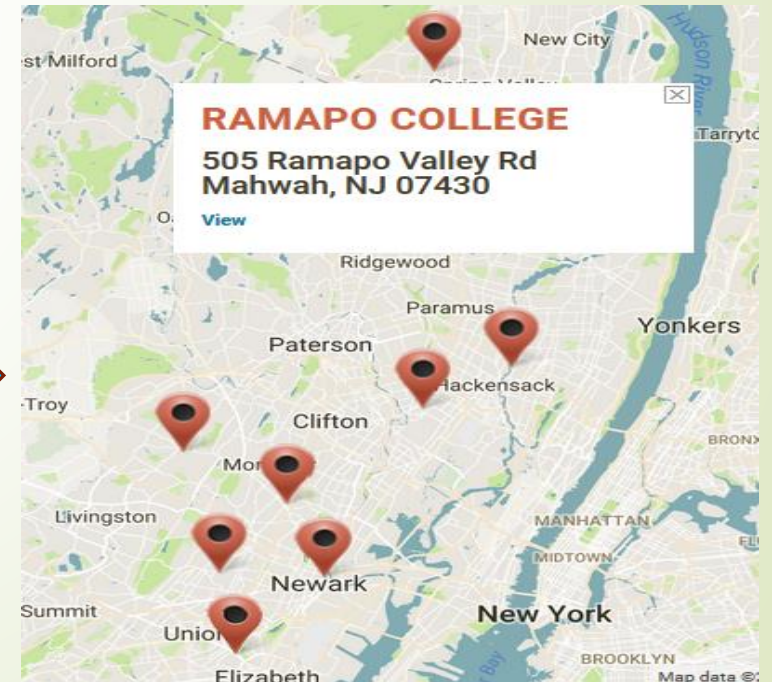
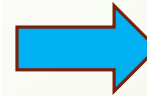
Find a Nursing Program

**Counties**

<input type="checkbox"/> Show all counties	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland County	<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex County	<input type="checkbox"/> Salem County
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Essex County	<input type="checkbox"/> Monmouth County	<input type="checkbox"/> Somerset County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bergen County	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloucester County	<input type="checkbox"/> Morris County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Union County
<input type="checkbox"/> Burlington County	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson County	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean County	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren County
<input type="checkbox"/> Camden County	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercer County	<input type="checkbox"/> Passaic County	

**Program Types**

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre licensure degrees only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post licensure degrees



\*New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN)

# Researching Nursing Programs

Institutions are continually creating new programs related to nursing. For the most updated information on institutions offer nursing programs and at what degree and licensing level, conduct the following searches:

- **New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN) website**  
(<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program>)
- **Discover Nursing website**  
(<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>)
- **Website for each institution of interest to you (and nursing programs at that institution)**

# Traditional BSN Programs\* outside of SHU

(will require transferring from SHU to another institution)

## ➤ Traditional BSN Programs

- First, conduct internet searches to identify nursing programs at specific institutions-- many institutions offer new programs each year
- Prior to transferring, research the requirements at each specific institution for acceptance into both the institution itself, as well as requirements for acceptance into the actual nursing program (they are very different)
- Send an email to the nursing program coordinator at each institution to set up either a telephone or in-person appointment to discuss the requirements for transferring and the process for acceptance into the nursing program. Find the person's email address on the program's website
- Be prepared to ask specific questions about the program and your candidacy for transferring. ***See the next slide for common questions to ask when considering transferring to another institution***

**\*For an updated list of institutions with BSN programs in NJ, refer to:**

- NJCCN website (<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program>),
- Discover Nursing website (<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>)
- Website for each institution of interest to you



# Common Questions to Ask Before Transferring

(when considering transferring from SHU to another institution)

- ▶ What are the requirements to transfer to this institution (regardless of my major)? Are there any entrance/standardized tests I must take? Application materials?
- ▶ Do you accept transfer students directly into your nursing program? If so, how many?
- ▶ If not, what is the process for declaring a nursing major after transferring here with another major (or pre-major status)?
- ▶ What are the prerequisite courses required before transferring into your program? Do I have to take those courses at your institution? If I have to retake any course(s), is there a requirement as to where I take those courses?
- ▶ How do I find out which credits from my previous institution(s) will transfer to your institution in general and/or into the nursing program? (Bring a copy of a transcript from each institution you have attended)
- ▶ How long (academic terms/semesters/summers) will it take me to graduate?
- ▶ What is the passing rate for the N-CLEX licensing exam for RN?
- ▶ Website with questions to ask before transferring halfway through a nursing program:  
<https://www.healthschoolfinder.com/switching-nursing-schools/>

# Second Degree / Accelerated Programs

## ➤ Accelerated BSN (2nd degree) Programs [in NJ]\*

➤ If you already hold a baccalaureate degree in a non-nursing field, there are a variety of ways you might become a Registered Nurse (RN). The following schools offer an accelerated program in Nursing for students who hold a non-nursing bachelor's degree

- [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#)
- [Felician College](#)
- [New Jersey City University](#)
- [Rutgers University College of Nursing](#)
- [Seton Hall University](#)
- [Thomas Edison State Collge](#)
- [UMDNJ-SN](#)
- [William Paterson University](#)

\*from New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nurses (NJCCN) website

**Note: This list is subject to change. For the most updated information, visit:**

- NJCCN website (<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program>),
- Discover Nursing website (<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>)
- Website for each institution of interest to you

# Pre-licensure Master's Degree Programs

- **Pre-licensure Master's Degree in Nursing [in NJ]\***
  - This program is for students with a baccalaureate degree in a non-nursing major.
    - [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
    - [Seton Hall University](#)

\*from New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nurses (NJCCN) website

**Note: This list is subject to change. For the most updated information, visit:**

- **NJCCN website** (<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program>),
- **Discover Nursing website** (<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>)
- **Website for each institution of interest to you**

# Licensed Practical Nurse (L.P.N.) Programs

- Complete LPN program at community county college
  - Seek employment in healthcare setting not requiring BSN or RN license
  - Employment may contain requirement to finish BSN and/or RN licensing over specific time period to maintain position

For a list of the LPN programs in NJ, visit:

- NJCCN website (<http://www.njccn.org/find-a-nursing-program>),
- Discover Nursing website (<https://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters>)
- Website for each institution of interest to you


# Before Applying to a Program

- Know the prerequisite courses for nursing
- Know what materials you need so that you can prepare yourself before application time
- Is there an Admissions exam?
- Is there an Interview process?
- Do I need to include a Personal statement?
- Do I need to include Recommendation Letters?
- What are the Deadlines? Do not wait until the deadline to apply--the earlier you submit your application, the better!



# Understand what you are getting into...

Look at the curriculum for the program(s) you are interested in. You will find that many of them are:

- Fast-paced, rigorous curriculum
- Little time for other personal or work commitments
- Consider financial implications
- Pay attention to typical program plan (are summers required? What is time to degree? Travel to clinical sites)
- Here is a sample curriculum for a Second Degree / Accelerated program 

## Curriculum - 61 Total Credits

### Semester One

NUTH 1101 Introduction to Professional Nursing	3 Credits
NUTH 2003 Pathophysiology	3 Credits
NUTC 2011 Health Assessment	3 Credits
NUTH 3010 Pharmacological Therapies	3 Credits
NUTC 2102 Nursing Therapeutics	2 Credits
NUTH 1003 Culture and Health	3 Credits

### Semester Two

NUTH 3002 Gerontological Nursing	2 Credits
NUTC 3915 Dimensions of Psychosocial Nursing	5 Credits
NUTC 3113 Adult Nursing I	5 Credits
NUTH 3003 Research in Nursing	3 Credits

### Semester Three

NUTC 3915 Maternal Newborn Nursing	5 Credits
NUTC 3916 Child and Family Nursing	5 Credits
NUTC 3917 Acute Adult Nursing	5 Credits

### Semester Four

NUTC 4019 Synthesis Practicum	5 Credits
NUTC 4118 Community Health Perspectives	5 Credits
NUTH 4001 Leadership, Management and Trends in Nursing	3 Credits
NUTH 2002 Legal Aspects of Nursing	1 Credit



# Next Steps

- Identify the geographic region that you are interested in
- Research the various types of nursing programs and decide which type of program (BSN, LPN, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, etc.) is best for you
- Research institutions with the program options of interest to you
- Find out more about the admissions process to each institution in general and then for the specific nursing program within the institution (they may be different)
- Take required exams/placement tests and complete prerequisite courses
- Prepare application materials and submit complete package early



# For more information or guidance:

## Questions about Nursing Programs:

Elizabeth McDermott, Assistant Dean College of Nursing

[Elizabeth.mcdermott1@shu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.mcdermott1@shu.edu) 973-761-9309

## Guidance with career goals and application materials (resume, cover letter, personal statements):

Nancy Borkowski, Associate Director, The Career Center

[nancy.borkowski@shu.edu](mailto:nancy.borkowski@shu.edu) 973-761-9355