# Nursing

## Nature of the Work
For descriptions of this profession see:
- *Students* section of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website ([http://www.aacn.nche.edu/](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/))
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## Options
- Gettysburg College graduates complete an accelerated program for adults with baccalaureate degrees in a field other than nursing
- 12-18 month accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs
- 3 year accelerated, entry-level Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs
- Check the *Students* section of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website ([http://www.aacn.nche.edu/](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/)) for lists of accelerated BSN and MSN programs
- Clinicians at the MSN level (Advanced Practice Registered Nurses):
  — Nurse Practitioners
  — Clinical Nurse Specialists
  — Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
  — Certified Nurse-Midwives
- A doctoral degree (DNP) will likely be the standard for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in the future

## Course Requirements
- Requirements vary by school
- Check the *Students* section of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website ([www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu))

## Application Timeline
Nursing school directly after Gettysburg College:
- Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants who complete the required courses sooner)
- Apply summer between junior and senior year

## Standardized Test
- Perhaps Graduate Record Exam (GRE) revised General Test ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Given year-round at computer-based test centers
- Length ~ 4 hours
- 3 sections: Verbal Reasoning (score 130-170), Quantitative Reasoning (score 130-170), Analytical Writing (score 0-6)
- Register on-line ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Free and low-cost preparation materials ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Unofficial scores on test day, official scores in 10-15 days
| Application Service | • Nursing’s Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS) ([http://nursingcas.org/](http://nursingcas.org/))  
• Available continuously  
• Schools not participating in NursingCAS: apply directly to school  
• APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines! |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Admissions Criteria | • GPA  
• GRE scores  
• Letters of evaluation  
• Health-related experience |
| Length of Program   | • Varies by school  
• ~ 12-18 months for accelerated BSN programs  
• ~ 3 years for accelerated, entry-level MSN programs |
| Degree              | • BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)  
• MSN (Master of Science in Nursing), MN (Master of Nursing), MS  
• PhD, DNS (Doctorate in Nursing Science), DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice) |
| Additional Resources| • American Association of Colleges of Nursing ([www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu))  
• American Association of Nurse Practitioners ([www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org))  
• National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists ([www.nacns.org](http://www.nacns.org))  
• American Association of Nurse Anesthetists ([www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com))  
• American College of Nurse-Midwives ([www.acnm.org](http://www.acnm.org))  
• [www.discovernursing.com](http://www.discovernursing.com)  
• [www.allnursingschools.com](http://www.allnursingschools.com) |

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