

# LOUISE HERRINGTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Introduction

The Baylor School of Nursing was established in 1909 as a diploma program within the Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas, the predecessor of the present Baylor University Medical Center.

The Louise Herrington School of Nursing is among the oldest baccalaureate nursing programs in the United States. The first class of Bachelor of Science in Nursing students was admitted in 1947. In 1949, the School became one of 10 degree-granting schools and colleges at Baylor University.

The Louise Herrington School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and approved by the Texas State Board of Nursing. A graduate of the program is academically qualified to write the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) in all verified states, and upon achieving a passing score on this examination, to be licensed as a registered nurse (R.N.) by the state.

The Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing is located in the heart of Dallas just northeast of downtown and nestled next to the campus of Baylor University Medical Center of Dallas.

There are approximately 600 undergraduate students enrolled in the nursing major. Students may complete all pre-nursing requirements at any regionally accredited institution and apply to transfer directly into the nursing major.

## Program Overview

The Louise Herrington School of Nursing offers three pathways to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree.

### Traditional Track

This track (pre-nursing and nursing) is designed to be completed in four years - eight academic semesters. Prerequisite courses may be taken on the Baylor-Waco campus or at another college or university.

### FastBacc® Track

This rigorous 12 month hybrid track, designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree, is comprised of accelerated curriculum completed primarily face-to-face with a combination of teaching methodologies including traditional classroom, on-line lectures, and clinical and lab experiences.

### Distance Accelerated BSN Track

This rigorous 12 month online track designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree, is comprised of accelerated curriculum completed primarily distant with on campus immersions, online instruction, and clinicals managed with preceptors.

## Admission

### Minimum Requirements

Students are officially admitted to the Traditional Track in the fall and spring semesters each year. Students are admitted into the FastBacc®

Track each summer. Students are admitted to the Distance Accelerated BSN Track in the fall and spring semesters.

All entering freshman students who wish to study nursing will be required to register in the non-degree granting Pre-Nursing (PNU1) major.

A student may remain in the PNU1 major for a maximum of three academic semesters. A student must be classified as a PNU2 student to apply for admission to the LHSON. A student may remain in the PNU2 major for a maximum of three academic semesters.

In order to declare the major of PNU2, a PNU1 student must meet the following lower division requirements:

1. Completion of at least two of the four required lower division science courses with a science GPA of 2.75 or greater.
2. Completion of NUR 1101 Introduction to the Art and Science of Nursing, New Student Experience with a grade of "C" or higher or successful completion of an equivalent course.
3. Completion of the HESI A2 exam achieving a grade of 80 or higher in the Math and English Composite sections of the nursing admission exam before progressing into the Pre-Nursing (PNU2) major. The nursing admission exam may be repeated once a semester for a maximum of three times.
4. Cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher.
5. Pre-nursing students may repeat a required lower division course only once.
6. Pre-nursing students may repeat no more than two required lower division courses.
7. Courses with a grade of "C" or higher may not be repeated to raise either the cumulative or pre-nursing GPA.

Students wishing to apply to the LHSON must be classified as a PNU2, Post-Baccalaureate, or Transfer student. Post-Baccalaureate and Transfer students are not required to complete a New Student Experience course. All applicants must meet the following admission criteria:

1. Applicants must be admitted to Baylor University or be Baylor University students in good standing with a minimum of 30 credit hours in residence.
2. Formal application to the School of Nursing is required. Applications, including both University and School of Nursing applications may be accessed on the School of Nursing website. Application deadlines for the Traditional Track are January 15 for fall admission and July 15 for spring admission. The deadline for FastBacc® Track admission is January 15. Application deadlines for the Distance Accelerated BSN Track are June 5th for September admission and October 8th for January admission.
3. Required lower division courses must be completed during the full academic semester prior to admission. Fall admission courses must be completed by the end of the preceding spring semester.
4. Students may be provisionally registered for the first semester classes pending official transcripts of required lower division courses. Students will not be allowed to register for future semesters if all official transcripts of required lower division work taken elsewhere are not on file with Baylor. See the Sample Curriculum Plans for the Traditional and FastBacc® tracks at the end of the nursing section for all course requirements.
5. A minimum grade of "C" (not "C-") is mandatory in each required lower division course. Students must achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all completed required lower division courses. The overall cumulative GPA must be a 2.75 or higher for admission to the

program. The science GPA must be 2.75 or higher for admission to the School of Nursing. Applicants may only repeat a required lower division course one time. Only the most recently completed course grade will count for admissions purposes. Students who fail the same required lower division course twice are not eligible to apply.

6. Applicants may only repeat a maximum of two required lower division courses.
7. The School of Nursing has adopted core performance standards for admission and progression within the major. The core performance standards identify behaviors which are essential to the responsibilities of a student nurse. These include, but are not limited to, psychomotor and sensory abilities, critical thinking, and communication skills. Students must sign the core performance document provided by the School of Nursing signifying that they are able to meet these standards and behaviors.
8. Students must complete the pre-admission criminal background check required by the Texas Board of Nursing prior to orientation and/or any participation in course activities at the School of Nursing. All students, prior to the beginning of their first clinical rotation, are required to complete an additional more in-depth background screen and to pass a drug screen as outlined in the Undergraduate Student Handbook. A positive drug screen and/or failure to clear either of the criminal background checks will prohibit the student from attending the school of nursing.
9. Students desiring to transfer from another School of Nursing are required to provide a letter of good standing from the former school of nursing in situations where nursing credits have been earned even though the student may not be seeking transfer credits from their previous course of study.
10. Regardless of the number of credit hours accepted for transfer, the 60 hour residency requirement must be met.
11. Nursing applicants are required to take the designated nurse admission examination as part of the application process. Minimum scores of 80 on each of the HESI A2 Math and English Composite portions are required to be admitted to the nursing program. There is a fee associated with the required testing, and the HESI A2 exam may be taken once a semester with no more than three attempts to achieve the required scores on the exam.
12. Students for whom English is their second language are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Minimum scores for admission consideration are:  
Paper Based Test of 560,  
Computer Based Test of 220,  
Internet Based Test (iBT) of 83.
13. Acceptance to the School of Nursing is term specific. Students are not granted automatic deferment of acceptance. Due to the competitive nature of admission to the nursing program, future acceptance to the School of Nursing is not guaranteed.

For additional information regarding admission to the School of Nursing, contact:

Dallas Campus  
Louise Herrington School of Nursing  
Student Services  
333 N. Washington Ave  
Dallas, TX 75246  
Phone: 972-576-9100  
Fax: 972-576-9081

Waco Campus

Pre-Nursing Office  
One Bear Place #97033  
Waco, TX 76798-7033  
Phone: 254-710-2226  
or 1-800-Baylor-U  
Fax: 254-710-2333

## Student Financial Aid

The costs of tuition, fees, housing, and food at Baylor are among the most economical of any major private university in the nation. Baylor represents an affordable, yet superior, private education guided by Christian influences and ideals.

The Student Financial Aid Office provides a comprehensive program that includes merit-based scholarships and need-based scholarships, as well as grants, loans, and work-study (part-time employment) designed to help eligible students meet expenses while enrolled at Baylor University. Over 90% of full-time degree-seeking students receive some form of financial assistance.

Please visit <https://onestop.web.baylor.edu/types-aid> to see a list of financial aid possibilities and other pertinent information regarding scholarships, grants, work-study (part-time employment) and loans.

Nursing Departmental scholarships are restricted to students in their Junior and Senior year, and FastBacc program. DABSN students can apply for Departmental scholarship after successful completion of their first trimester. Nursing Departmental scholarships are not currently available to Freshman, Sophomore year students in the Pre-nursing program and DNP students.

### Baylor University Medical Center Woman's Auxiliary Foree Scholarship

A limited number of scholarships are available to students who are receiving other forms of financial aid. The application procedure is coordinated between the Student Services Office and the Woman's Auxiliary.

### Work-Study Employment

Students employed by the University or School are limited to working twenty hours per week. Students who fail to meet the academic standards in the School of Nursing due to employment will receive no special consideration regardless of financial need.

## Student Life, Services, and Facilities

The regents, administration, and faculty of Baylor University believe that students should have comprehensive and varied opportunities for physical, intellectual, social, cultural, religious, and emotional development. To this end a variety of services, activities and facilities is available to the nursing students in Dallas.

### Student Ministries

The Student Ministries Office provides faith-based opportunities for students on the Dallas campus. Activities include Bible studies, local mission opportunities, retreats, and domestic and international mission trips. The Office of Student Ministries is committed to providing a well-balanced program of ministry opportunities for all students on the Dallas campus. Students are involved in leadership at various levels throughout the program.

## Professional Organizations

LHSON hosts a variety of professional student organizations. Students enrolled in nursing courses are eligible to join the Baylor Student Nursing Association (BSNA), an affiliate of the national and state Nursing Students' Associations. BSNA aids in the transition to LHSON, supports involvement in the national organization, mentor's students in professional practice and helps facilitate the transition to American Nurses' Association. Bears for the Cure raises awareness of pediatric cancer, fundraises for pediatric cancer research, and directly helps kids receiving treatment at the Children's Dallas oncology unit. Bears Helping Hearts raises awareness about congenital heart disease and defects while also engaging in volunteer service and fundraising/donation opportunities to support those affected and future research. The Multicultural Student Nurses' Association represents interests of pre-nursing and nursing students from diverse cultural backgrounds, enrich their experiences, and provide opportunities to network with nursing leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds. Nursing Christian Fellowship (NCF), a ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, is both a Christian professional organization and a ministry of and for nurses and nursing students. The School sponsors the Eta Gamma chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society. Qualified students are invited during their final semester for membership in Sigma Theta Tau International based upon criteria set forth by Sigma Theta Tau International.

## Counseling Services

Various avenues for personal counseling services are available to students. The School of Nursing contracts with a local counseling practice to provide services to students at no cost. These services are confidential, and students may self-refer. The practice is comprehensive and can see students for a variety of reasons including test anxiety stress, depression, relationship counseling, and eating disorders. All counselors are licensed professional counselors and professing Christians. Students may be seen by appointment as well as through on campus well-being seminars. In addition, LHSON Chaplain, the Director of Student Services, and Case Manager are available to provide help and/or referrals when needed or requested by the student.

## Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) serves as the library for the Louise Herrington School of Nursing. On weekdays, the LRC is staffed by a credentialed medical librarian or student workers. The librarian offers appointments with nursing students or faculty for intensive individual research sessions or consulting. Appointments may be in person, by telephone or electronically. The LRC online library includes links to important clinical and nursing literature databases as well as online access to all Baylor Libraries electronic resources. The LRC resources include citation and full-text databases, eBooks, printers, a full-color touchscreen scanner, audiovisuals such as streaming videos, models, kits, and clinical equipment. The LRC has computers for student use, study rooms, spaces for small group work, individual study areas, and spaces for relaxation. The LRC can obtain journal articles not owned by the university via a national network of health sciences libraries as well as through nonmedical library networks.

## Advisement

The Waco-based Pre-nursing Academic Advisors advise the students enrolled at Baylor while in the pre-nursing majors or for students interested in changing into the major. Incoming nursing students are advised and registered by the School of Nursing. All nursing students are encouraged to meet with the Coordinators of Academic Success

during their first semester at the School of Nursing to discuss academic progression in their courses. Students who may need to deviate from the standard nursing curriculum progression will receive an individualized program of study developed by the Clinical Placement Manager.

## The Success Center

The Success Center within the Louise Herrington School of Nursing assists nursing students by providing academic support services and designated study spaces. The Center includes areas designed for individual and group study, as well as a private testing area for students requiring testing accommodations or for administration of make-up exams.

Academic referrals may be made to the Success Center. Referred students are provided support and information regarding test taking skills, note taking skills, study skills, time management, stress management, goal setting and critical thinking. The Success Center staff also coordinates free tutoring for nursing students.

## Career Planning

The Nursing School offers career services support including guidance in writing résumés and cover letters, preparing for interviews, and writing thank you letters. Students are encouraged to attend the various hospital presentations and recruiting events provided by the Coordinator of Career Services and Alumni Relations.

## Dining

The Tom A. and Suzanne P. Martin Café provides food and beverages for sale along with refrigerators and microwaves for personal food preparation. A variety of public restaurants are located within the immediate vicinity of campus. Students receive a discount on meals purchased at the Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) cafeterias when they present their BUMC ID.

## Parking and Building Access

Parking on the Dallas Campus is by permit only through the Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH) Parking Office and coordinated through Student Services. Parking cost \$240 per academic year and provides access to the LHSON underground parking garage and designated overflow lots. Baylor Police patrol the BUMC campus and provide building security. A security escort is available to students upon request. Emergency call boxes are stationed at a variety of locations within and around the perimeter of the medical center.

Entrance to the nursing buildings is controlled by BSWH Parking Office and coordinated by Student Services. BSWH issued badges allow access to the buildings and underground garage. Students are required to wear a BSWH ID badge while in LHSON.

## White Coat Ceremonies

The White Coat Ceremony is a special event where students receive their white coat, embroidered with the Baylor LHSON emblem, after satisfactorily completing the classes and labs in their first block. Receiving the white coat symbolizes students' progression in the School of Nursing, the profession of nursing, and student's readiness to embark upon clinical practice.

## Pinning Ceremonies

Graduating nursing students are honored for their academic accomplishment at the Pinning & Recognition Ceremony after satisfactorily completing their final semester at LHSON. There is no fee

for participation in the pinning ceremony. Information about the event will be shared a month into students' final semester.

## Commencement Ceremonies

Graduation exercises are held on the Waco campus in May, August, and December. Graduating students are strongly encouraged to attend and are recognized during the commencement ceremony. Students must notify the University if they are not participating in their commencement ceremony. No student may graduate until all degree requirements are complete and the necessary official records are in the Office of the Registrar. The University reserves the right to correct errors in records at any time.

Diplomas are dated as of the official closing date of a semester or full summer session. Diplomas are ordered approximately seven (7) business days following the graduation date. Due to the Christmas break, December graduate diplomas will be ordered when Baylor University reopens in January. Baylor University now offers digital diplomas and certificates! These are certified electronic credentials known as a CeDiploma or CeCertificate! Student will receive an email with a link to download their credential when it is available from our trusted partner, CeCredential Trust.

## Academic Policies and Procedures

Progression in the major toward an anticipated date of graduation is contingent upon successful completion, with a grade of "C" (not "C-") or above, in **all** courses the first time attempted in a full-time or approved part-time plan of study.

Any student who does not achieve a grade of "C" (not "C-") or above in any nursing course and who plans to continue in the program must have a revised plan of study and new graduation date approved by the Associate Dean for Pre-Licensure Program within two weeks following the semester in which the deficiency was received.

In most instances, a student who must repeat a course will delay curriculum progression.

### Course Repetition in the Nursing Major

A grade of "C" (71.00) is required in all courses in the nursing major. If a student does not achieve a grade of "C" (71.00) or above in a nursing course, the course must be repeated the NEXT semester it is offered if space is available in the class unless written approval is received from the Associate Dean of Pre-licensure Program or Dean. A student may repeat one nursing course. A student who fails two or more nursing courses will not be eligible to continue in the major. The student may be eligible to continue studies in another major within the University.

### Drop/Withdrawal Policy

Students may enroll in a nursing course up to two times. Students enrolled in the undergraduate nursing program who previously withdrew, dropped, or failed a Nursing course may not subsequently withdraw from the same course. Nursing students have one opportunity to withdraw, drop or fail a nursing course. Students are required to complete pre-requisite courses prior to moving forward in the major. Students taking a nursing course previously withdrawn, dropped, or failed are required to earn a minimum of C or higher to pass the repeated nursing course. The second drop/withdrawal from a previously withdrawn nursing course constitutes a dismissal from the Program. Exceptions to this policy may be entertained due to extraordinary non-academic circumstances.

Requests for exception to policy will be reviewed by the Associate Dean for the Pre-Licensure Program.

## Readmission Following Academic Dismissal

A student who was dismissed from the nursing program for academic reasons is not eligible for readmission for three (3) academic years. Readmission applications are processed through the Louise Herrington School of Nursing Student Services and are reviewed by the LHSON Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee. The readmission applicant must meet all admission requirements stated in the academic catalog that are current when the application is submitted. In addition to the readmission application, the applicant must submit current nursing entrance test scores, which supports the applicants' potential for success if readmitted. Readmission is to the beginning level of the nursing curriculum and is a highly selective process. Students who have been readmitted must pass all nursing courses attempted. Subsequent failure of any one course will result in permanent dismissal from the Louise Herrington School of Nursing.

## Continuation in the Major Following Interruption for Non-Academic Reasons

Former students in good standing who have withdrawn or taken a semester off due to non-academic reasons (health, pregnancy, family emergencies, financial, etc.) may be eligible to return to the School of Nursing the following semester. The student will need to meet with the Associate Dean for Pre-Licensure Program to develop a degree plan for continuation in the major.

If a student requests a leave of absence due to a non-academic reason and this leave exceeds one year from the date of withdrawal, a competency evaluation will need to be completed. Reentry to the program is contingent on meeting the following requirements: Successful completion of a health assessment exam, CPE skills, and satisfactory conversion score of no less than 71% on the applicable HESI specialty exam(s) as determined by the Associate Dean for Pre-Licensure Program. Cost of HESI specialty exam(s) will be at the student's expense. Students re-entering the program after a lapse of one semester or greater must also successfully complete background and drug screening.

## Professional Responsibility/Code of Ethics

Throughout the entire course of study in the School of Nursing, students are reminded that they are studying to become a member of an honored profession and of the responsibility that such membership entails. The ethical standards of conduct of the professional nurse as a member of a service profession in a self-governing society are upheld in a manner consistent with the purposes of a Christian university.

Within the academic and clinical settings, professional nursing students must;

1. Adhere to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics.
2. Uphold all academic and clinical institutional policies related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to appeal using the procedure outlined in the Baylor University Honor Code.
3. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility and accountability for their actions.
4. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values, cultural and spiritual beliefs.
5. Maintain client confidentiality.

6. Communicate the care for clients in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.

## Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

Students must be certified/recertified in the American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support Course C for Healthcare Provider (BCLS) prior to the first day of the clinical class in each semester. A course will be offered for students during Orientation and upon exiting the program. There is a fee associated with each BCLS course. We strongly recommend students take the course at the time they enter the program to remain current throughout their academic attendance. Certification must stay current throughout any given semester. No student will be allowed in the clinical setting until fulfillment of this requirement is documented.

## Immunizations

Prior to attending clinical, all students must provide documentation of a current IGRA TB test, QuantiFERON Gold or T-Spot blood test; required to be repeated annually. Students with a positive TB test must provide documentation of positive TB screen along with a chest x-ray report. In addition, students must provide documentation indicating they have received the following immunizations: Hepatitis B (HepIsav-B - 2 dose or HEP B - 3 dose series) **and** HEP B Surface Antibody titer confirming immunity, Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR - 2 dose series), Varicella (Chickenpox - 2 dose series), Tdap and annual Influenza (flu) vaccine. A titer confirming immunity may be substituted for proof of immunization for MMR and Varicella. Students applying to any nursing school should begin the Hep B series at least 8-9 months prior to anticipated start date as the full course of series and titer can take up to 7 months to complete. Students are not allowed in the clinical setting until fulfillment of these requirements are documented. The COVID-19 vaccine is strongly recommended by clinical agencies. Per our affiliation agreements with clinical agencies, students attending clinical, or capstone rotation must abide by the current policies and procedures of each site. Deadlines vary by season. Students are required to be in compliance by established deadlines to attend clinical practicum.

## Personal Health Coverage

All students in the School of Nursing are required to carry personal health insurance coverage to attend clinical. Health Insurance coverage is available through the sponsorship of Baylor University. A description of the Combined Insurance Company plan offered through Baylor University is available at <https://baylor.myahpcare.com>. Health coverage must be maintained throughout the nursing program.

## Latex Allergy

Students may be exposed to products containing latex in the clinical environment and should carefully consider this personal risk if they have a history of latex allergy. Students are advised to discuss any concerns with their health care provider before beginning nursing classes.

## OSHA Guidelines

All students are expected to adhere to the School of Nursing OSHA guidelines as well as the guidelines of any institution in which they have a clinical rotation.

## Professional Liability Insurance

Each year the Louise Herrington School of Nursing makes arrangements with an insurance company to provide professional liability insurance for

nursing students. Questions concerning coverage may be addressed to the insurance agency from which Baylor obtains the insurance.

## Employment Outside of the University

Students are strongly advised that work hours should not exceed 24 hours per week. Students who fail to meet the academic standards in the School of Nursing due to employment will receive no special consideration regardless of financial need. Students employed by clinical agencies should be aware that neither the University nor the School of Nursing assumes any responsibility for their activities as employees of an agency.

## Professional Licensure

### Licensing Examination for State Registration

During the semester prior to graduation, students will complete an application for the National Council for Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN) and an application to the Board of Nursing in the state in which they are seeking licensure. There is a fee for the NCLEX-RN application and for licensure by the various state boards. (Board application fees vary by state.) The Academic Affairs Office assists students in the application procedure but assumes no responsibility for late or incorrect applications.

Successful completion of the nursing program does not guarantee successful passage of the licensing examination. In addition, the Texas State Board of Nursing may refuse an applicant permission to write the exam for reasons cited in "Texas Statutes Regulating the Practice of Professional Nursing."

### Licensure as a Registered Nurse

Several requirements must be met before a student is eligible for licensure. Students must submit verification of completion of all requirements for graduation from an approved nursing education program. In addition, all individuals seeking licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Texas must submit, along with a fee required by the board, a complete and legible set of fingerprints on a Board approved form for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

All convictions, guilty pleas and nolo contendere pleas must be reported, except for minor traffic violations not related to the use of drugs or alcohol. This includes misdemeanors, felonies, "driving while intoxicated (DWI)" and "driving under the influence (DUI)." Crimes must be reported even if they are a suspended imposition of a sentence. All prior or current disciplinary action against another professional license must be reported, whether it occurred in Texas or in another state or country. All pending charges must be reported to the Board.

Applicants must file a "Petition for Declaratory Order" to declare prior criminal record and disciplinary actions. Forms and instructions are available on the website for the Texas State Board of Nursing: <https://www.bon.texas.gov>.

## School of Nursing Administrative Faculty

Name	Title
Linda S. Plank, Ph.D.	Dean of Nursing
Alona Angosta, Ph.D.	Associate Dean for Scholarship and Research
Marie Lindley, Ph.D.	Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation

Deborah Petty, D.N.P.	Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Deborah Shirey, D.N.P.	Associate Dean for Graduate Education
Stacia Hays, D.N.P.	Associate Dean for Graduate Education
Lisa M. Jones, D.N.P.	Associate Dean for Pre-Licensure Program
Kathryn Osteen, Ph.D.	Associate Dean for Pre-Licensure Program

## Faculty

Faculty | Louise Herrington School of Nursing | Baylor University (<https://nursing.baylor.edu/facultystaff/faculty/>)

At the heart of our school is an exceptional faculty, each and every one committed to the success of our students. They are a unique group: researchers, authors, winners of countless national awards, presidents of national organizations, former missionaries and administrators, and experts in their specialties. They are always accessible and always focused on the needs of their students. They are there to advise, act as role models, and encourage and guide students throughout their education and beyond.

- Curriculum (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/undergraduate/louise-herrington-school-nursing/nursing-bsn/>)