



# How to prepare for nursing school

So, you want to become a nurse. Yay!! You will join a high-demand, high-earning field.

While you're still in high school, we recommend you start by learning all you can from nursing professionals:

- Talk with a nurse.
- Shadow a nurse in your community.
- Ask a lot of questions about the profession.



There are also concrete steps to help you prepare before you apply to nursing school.

**Always review the specific application requirements for the schools you are considering!**

## During high school you should:

- Take foundational math and science classes.
- Get good grades. (Most schools have minimum GPA requirements.)
- Consider getting some healthcare experience. You may work as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), Patient Care Assistant (PCA) or Medical Care Assistant (MCA) to help you get a feel for healthcare professions.
  - Don't worry about having to pay for these certifications.
  - Learn about the Kansas Board of Regents' Excel in CTE Initiative. It may help pay for these credentials through approved Kansas schools.
- If available, join your local chapter of HOSA-Future Health Professionals
- If available, take health career classes at your school, or explore Professional Learning Experiences (PLEs).
- Explore [KansasNursingSchools.com](https://www.kansasnursingschools.com):** one website with ALL Kansas nursing school info in one place, plus career option information!

**PRO TIP:** Every college or nursing school will have an admissions counselor that will help you with your questions and preparations. Use them... It's what they do!



# Senior year prep

**REMEMBER:** Always check the school's website for their specific admission criteria.

These are the things to help you prepare for the nursing school application process:

- Earn your high school diploma or GED and get your official transcripts.
- Complete prerequisite coursework if you're planning to earn a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN).
  - Prerequisites are college-level courses you take before you are admitted to your nursing program. Prerequisites typically include anatomy and physiology with lab, biology, English and math.
  - Your grades will matter in these classes too!
- Age matters. To attend nursing school, you'll need to be at least:
  - 17 years old for admission to PN programs (to be an LPN)
  - 18 years old for admission to ADN and BSN programs (to be an RN)

Nursing schools **MAY** also require you to:

- Pass a criminal background check and drug screenings
- Minimum scores on entrance exams/placement exams such as the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS).
- Letters of recommendation: Who you choose really matters! Select people who can talk about you as a leader or in a professional setting.
- Prepare for personal statements or interviews.



The Kansas Nursing Workforce Center, established in 2023, is based at the University of Kansas School of Nursing and committed to the entire state. Our mission is to ensure that every Kansan has access to nursing care when and where it is needed and to support the nurse as an individual and as a member of the healthcare team.

We produce public-facing reports and develops programs that support the nursing workforce.

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