

Auburn Montgomery
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
School of Nursing



Prenursing
Student Handbook

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AUM University Information

University website

- www.aum.edu
- My AUM account access
- Campus news and events
- Academic calendar
- University catalog - Online only www.aum.edu/catalogs; includes university policies, admissions, academic integrity, financial aid, course descriptions, degree requirements, etc.

Full/Part Time Student Status

The prenursing courses may be completed on a full time or part time basis, at the student's discretion. **A minimum course load of 12 credit hours per semester is required to be considered a full time student at AUM.** Most prenursing lecture courses are 3 credit hours and most lab courses are 1 credit hour.

An average full-time load in prenursing is four to five courses (including at least one lab science course) during the longer fall or spring semesters, for a total of 13 – 16 credit hours. Taking more than 2 – 3 prenursing courses (6 – 10 credit hours) in the shorter summer semester is not recommended, although 12 hours are also required during the summer semester to be considered full time.

The upper division nursing program is a full-time course of study and takes 2 years (5 semesters) to complete. The nursing program **requires 35-40 hours per week of class, lab, and clinical time plus additional time for study and preparation.**

Financial Aid

For any **questions regarding your financial aid, please contact the university Financial Aid Office (334) 244-3571, 111 Taylor Center, finaid@aum.edu.** Each student's financial aid account differs and is confidential. The academic advisor does not have access to student accounts and cannot answer any questions about financial aid.

Email

The university provides each student an email account through the My AUM portal My.AUM.edu, which may be used for both school and personal email. Email is the **official means of communication for the university**. You will receive **important** university information on your email account, so please be sure to check it **daily**.

The School of Nursing will use **only** your **university** email account for advising communications. **Please check your university email account frequently!** Empty your inbox occasionally or emails will be returned to the sender, and you could miss out on important information. **Please check your junk email folder regularly**, in case emails from the School of Nursing have gone to this folder.

Whenever possible, **please use email to communicate with the School of Nursing advisors (Mrs. Conner kconner4@aum.edu; Mrs. Adams hadams9@aum.edu; Mrs. O'Brian awhite19@aum.edu)** responses are much more rapid! If you do not receive a response, please check your junk mail folder to see if the response is there. If it is not there, please resend the

email.

Upper division nursing students are required to use only the university email system for School of Nursing assignments and communications.

School of Nursing Information

Overview

The School of Nursing at Auburn Montgomery is housed within the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The traditional four-year nursing course of study leads to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.). The traditional nursing program has two components – **prenursing** (lower division) and **nursing** (upper division).

During the **prenursing** years of the program students study biophysical and behavioral sciences and the humanities. The **nursing** component of the program provides classroom, laboratory, and clinical learning experiences. The clinical experiences occur in a variety of health care agencies in and around Montgomery. After successful completion of the program, the graduate may apply to the Board of Nursing in any state to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The graduate is also prepared to pursue the study of nursing at the graduate level.

Please see the College of Nursing and Health Sciences website www.aum.edu/nursingandhealth for frequently asked questions, updates to this handbook, and other important information.

Prenursing Academic Standards

Academic Honesty

Students should **thoroughly** review and be familiar with the academic honesty information outlined in the current AUM undergraduate student catalog on the university website at www.aum.edu/academics/catalogs. Students are expected to maintain academic honesty and integrity in all work pursued at AUM.

Prenursing academic requirements

Students are required to maintain a satisfactory GPA to declare the prenursing major and to remain in the prenursing major.

- When 15 hours of prenursing credit have been attempted, a minimum 2.00 GPA (unadjusted and unrounded) calculated on the prenursing requirements alone is required to declare and to continue in the prenursing major.
- When 30 or more hours of prenursing credit have been attempted, a minimum 2.50 GPA (unadjusted and unrounded) calculated on the prenursing requirements alone is required to declare and to continue in the prenursing major.

Please be aware that the **lab science courses are predictive of the ability to succeed in nursing courses**. If these courses have been failed repeatedly, or if they seem extremely difficult, nursing studies will also prove to be problematic. **A student who has earned two (2) grades below a “C” in Anatomy and Physiology I or in Anatomy and Physiology II is not eligible to declare or to remain in the prenursing major or to apply to the upper division**

of the nursing program at AUM. Time management, reading, and algebra skills are also crucial for success in nursing studies.

All prenursing course work must be completed with grades of “C” or higher prior to entering the nursing program. To be *considered* for nursing admission, students must earn a minimum grade of “C” on each prenursing course and hold a minimum GPA of 2.50 (unadjusted and unrounded) on those courses alone at the time of application. From this pool of applicants, candidates will be ranked by GPA, some selected for interviews, and the most qualified applicants will be offered admission.

Tips for Achieving Academic Success

- **Prepare ahead** for class meetings
 - Complete homework/reading assignments prior to class meetings.
 - Gather all necessary materials – pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, etc.
 - Preparation prior to class time is **required** for success in upper division (nursing) coursework.
- Use **one calendar** for all courses, appointments, events, etc.
 - Course syllabi will list test and assignment due dates – record all tests and assignment due dates from all courses on ONE calendar.
 - Add drop dates for the semester (listed on the Academic Calendar on the AUM website under the Academics tab).
 - Include personal appointments/work hours/events on the same calendar.
 - Using a calendar for school assignments is a skill **necessary** for success in upper division (nursing) coursework.
- Maximize **reading skills**
 - Excellent reading skills are **imperative** in the nursing major.
 - Read out loud; take notes as you are reading; use context clues to figure out meaning; look up the definition of any word you do not know
 - Success in Nursing and on the nurse licensure exam is strongly correlated to a high level of reading comprehension.
- **Utilize available resources:**
 - **Course faculty** are required to be available to students a certain number of hours per week outside of class time. Each professor will provide a syllabus which should include their office number, email address, and office hours.
 - AUM offers **free tutoring** to students. Please refer to the yellow sheet in the new student packet.
 - **The Learning Center** offers **free** tutoring in writing and math. (334) 244-3470, room 225 in the Library Tower, appointment required.
 - **The Instructional Support Lab** offers **free** tutoring in science and math courses. (334) 244-3265, room 203 Goodwyn Hall, no appointment required, first come first served.

Dropping a course

A minimum grade of “C” is required in every prenursing course. If a student thinks s/he is unlikely to achieve a grade of “C” in any prenursing course, then dropping the course by the final drop date is recommended from an academic perspective. **However, verify first that dropping the course will not cause a problem with financial aid, insurance, athletic team,**

campus housing, etc. If a **D** or **F** is earned in a prenursing course, the course must be retaken. **Low grades (especially in math and science courses) will greatly decrease the possibility of achieving admission to the School of Nursing.** The drop dates are listed on the Academic Calendar on the website www.aum.edu/AcademicCalendar. A course dropped by the final drop date for the semester will have only a grade of “W” (for withdrawn) on the student’s transcript.

Grade Adjustment Policy

AUM’s Grade Adjustment Policy (GAP) allows currently enrolled, regularly admitted undergraduate students to request that a maximum of three course grades of D/F/FA/U be excluded from the *computation* of their cumulative university GPA. Grades or credit considered as transfer credit, courses earned in a previously awarded baccalaureate degree, or grades that have been assigned as a result of academic misconduct are excluded from this policy. This policy does not offer exemption from academic requirements for Auburn University at Montgomery degrees; adjustment only applies to grades in individual courses. **The School of Nursing will count every time the course has been taken for the Upper Division admission evaluation. Adjustments are not considered.** All prenursing courses must be completed with grades of “C” or higher.

Repeat to Replace Policy

AUM’s Repeat-to-Replace Policy allows currently enrolled, regularly admitted undergraduate students to request that grades of F/FA/U earned in a for-credit course be excluded from the *computation* of their cumulative university GPA and from earned hours **after** the student has retaken the course at AUM and earned a higher grade. Grades or credit considered as transfer credit, courses earned in a previously awarded baccalaureate degree, or grades that have been assigned as a result of academic misconduct are excluded from this policy. This policy does not offer exemption from academic requirements for Auburn University at Montgomery degrees; adjustment only applies to grades in individual courses. **The School of Nursing will count every time the course has been taken for the Upper Division admission GPA evaluation. Adjustments are not considered.** All prenursing courses must be completed with grades of “C” or higher.

Prenursing Advising and Registration

Advising Appointments

All individual prenursing student appointments are scheduled through **AdvisorTrac**. Students may schedule individual appointments as needed for any academic concerns and to receive the alternate pin for registration. Instructions for scheduling appointments through AdvisorTrac are on the purple sheet in the new student packet. Students may schedule an appointment with any of our academic advisors: Mrs. Haley Adams or Mrs. Lauren O’Brian or Mrs. Kris Conner.

Alternate PIN

An **alternate PIN** (Personal Identification Number) is required to access the Webster Registration System through which students register for classes and make changes to their schedules. This number changes every semester. University policy requires all students to meet with an advisor each semester to obtain the alternate PIN.

***** **PLEASE NOTE:** It is THE STUDENT’S responsibility to keep up with their alternate

PIN. We suggest storing it in your phone.

Registering for Courses

Advisors provide each student a suggested plan of study to follow when registering for classes. After meeting with an advisor, students are responsible for registering themselves through the Webster Registration System. Detailed step-by-step instructions are included on the blue sheet in the new student packet. Students are encouraged to email their advisor (Mrs. Conner kconner4@aum.edu; Mrs. Adams hadams9@aum.edu; Mrs. O'Brian awhite19@aum.edu) *as often as necessary* to address any questions or concerns.

The registration dates and drop dates are available on the Academic Calendar, found on the Auburn Montgomery website www.aum.edu/academiccalendar. Registration *typically* begins the first week of November for the spring semester and the first week of April for the summer and fall semesters.

The Webster Registration System will usually allow registration for a subsequent course if a student is currently enrolled in the prerequisite, but all prerequisite courses must be successfully completed with a grade of “C” or above, or with “Credit” (for credit/noncredit courses) to be eligible to move to the subsequent course.

If a student has registered for a subsequent course and did not achieve at least a “C” in the prerequisite course or dropped the prerequisite course, **THE STUDENT** is responsible for changing her/his schedule, retaking the prerequisite course, and achieving a “C” or above before moving on to the higher level, more difficult course. Be sure to check your grades on Webster at the end of each semester.

Half term courses (7 – 8 week sections) are *not* recommended for the first semester of attendance.

Transient forms

Prenursing students may take some courses at other schools if necessary (such as enrolling in a course or two if returning home for the summer) as a transient student. A transient form is a document requesting that another accredited institution allow a current Auburn Montgomery student to attend their school and transfer the credit back to AUM. Please contact your advisor to obtain the necessary transient form (Mrs. Conner kconner4@aum.edu; Mrs. Adams hadams9@aum.edu; Mrs. O'Brian awhite19@aum.edu).

Transient forms are provided solely at the discretion of the department head of the student’s major and the dean of the college in which the major is housed. Transient forms are not allowed for the Anatomy and Physiology courses, as students will be best prepared for the Nursing part of our program by taking those courses at Auburn Montgomery.

Prenursing Courses by Subject

Success Course

New freshmen, returning freshmen, and transfer students with fewer than 24 credit hours are **required** to take **UNIV 1000 University Success Course** during their first year of attendance at AUM to meet graduation requirements.

English

ENGL 1010 English Composition I and **ENGL 1020 English Composition II** are required for Nursing and for graduation. Students are placed into their initial English course at AUM based on their ACT (or SAT) Math subscore as shown in the *Prenursing Courses with Prerequisites* table below.

Students who score below 18 on the English portion of the ACT must pass ENGL 0103 Introduction to Composition & lab prior to taking ENGL 1010 English Composition I. ENGL 0103 is a credit/noncredit course and will not affect the GPA.

Students without ACT (or SAT) scores must take an English placement test OR they may register for ENGL 0103 Intro to Composition & lab without taking the placement test if a review of the basics of writing is desired. Information regarding placement testing is on the AUM website at www.aum.edu/admissions. Please call (334) 244-3384 with questions.

Literature

At least one **Literature** course is required to meet graduation requirements. Literature courses have prerequisites as shown in the *Prenursing Courses with Prerequisites* table below. Students may choose from **ENGL 2530 English Literature I**, **ENGL 2540 English Literature II**, **ENGL 2570 American Literature I**, **ENGL 2580 American Literature II**, **ENGL 2600 Literature of the Western World I**, or **ENGL 2610 Literature of the Western World II**.

A course SEQUENCE in Literature or History is required for graduation (e.g. both American Literature I and II). Contact your advisor for questions concerning this requirement.

Area II elective OR 2nd Literature

If a History sequence is taken, students may choose an elective from the approved Area II list on the STARS website http://stars.troy.edu/approved_courses/aum_area.html. A course on an elective list that is being used to meet another requirement **cannot** count as your elective course. For example, if you have taken MUSI 2110 Music Appreciation (from the Area II list) to meet the Fine Arts requirement, then that course **cannot** be used as an Area II elective. Additionally, PHIL 2100 Applied Ethics is already required in the prenursing curriculum and **cannot** be used as an Area II elective. A course sequence in Literature or History is **required** for graduation. Contact your advisor for questions concerning this requirement.

Lab Sciences

The 3 hour lecture and 1 hour lab portions of the lab science courses **are considered “co-requisites” and must be taken together in the same semester**. The lecture and lab may be on different days and/or have different teachers, but both portions of the course are required to be taken in the same semester.

BIOL 1010 & 1011 Cells, Molecules, and Life & Lab (formerly called Principles of Biology) should be taken as soon as possible and has math and English prerequisites as shown in the *Prenursing Courses with Prerequisites* table below. This course fulfills a core lab science graduation requirement.

PSCI 1500 & 1501 Introduction to Chemistry and Lab has no prerequisite, may be taken

any semester of prenursing study, and fulfills a core lab science graduation requirement. At AUM this course is taught through the Physical Science department.

Anatomy and Physiology courses (A&P) should be taken within a year of Upper Division entry, *preferably at AUM* to be best prepared for our nursing program. If a student's A&P credit was earned more than 5 years prior to Upper Division entry, a retake of one A&P course is *required*. In this situation, A&P II is the recommended choice. **A student who has earned two (2) grades below a "C" in Anatomy and Physiology I or in Anatomy and Physiology II is not eligible to declare or to remain in the prenursing major or to apply to the upper division of the nursing program at AUM.**

BIOL 2100 & 2101 Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab has prerequisites as shown in the table below. A&P I/lab should be taken in the longer fall or spring semester to best absorb this important material. This course meets a nursing requirement and also fulfills a core lab science graduation requirement.

BIOL 2110 & 2111 Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab has prerequisites as shown in the table below. A&P II/lab should be taken in the longer fall or spring semester to best absorb this important material. This course meets a nursing requirement but does NOT meet a core lab science graduation requirement.

BIOL 3010 & 3011 Microbiology and Lab has prerequisites as shown in the *Prenursing Courses with Prerequisites* table below. This course meets a nursing requirement but does NOT meet a core lab science graduation requirement.

Mathematics

Prenursing students are strongly encouraged to take MATH 1050 College Algebra. **STAT 2670 Elementary Statistics** is **required** for Nursing and has prerequisites as shown in the table below.

Students are placed into their initial math course at AUM based on their ACT (or SAT) Math subscore. Students with an ACT Math subscore of 17 or lower will enroll in MATH 0703 Elementary Algebra or MATH 0902 Elementary & Intermediate Algebra.

Students without a current ACT or SAT test score (within the last five years) will be required to take the ALEKS math placement test to determine math course eligibility. Students with previous AP credit or credits from certain college-level mathematics courses may be exempt from placement testing pending review of their college transcripts.

Students wishing to test into a higher math placement can enroll in a summer Math Boot Camp (which includes ALEKS placement testing) prior to their first semester at no charge. This FREE course is available as an online self-study program. Please refer to the website <https://www.aum.edu/math-boot-camp/> for more information.

Please take the math placement test (if needed) as soon as possible. It is highly recommended to begin the math requirement immediately if MATH 0703 and/or MATH 0803 are required. Allow a minimum of 3 semesters to complete Statistics in case remediation or retakes are necessary. Please see the website www.aum.edu/admissions (click

on Placement Testing) or contact the Math Department with questions about math placement testing (334) 244-3677.

History

At least one **History** course is required to meet graduation requirements. Choose from **HIST 1010 World History I**, **HIST 1020 World History II**, **HIST 1060 Western Civilization I**, **HIST 1070 Western Civilization II**, **HIST 2010 United States History I**, or **HIST 2020 United States History II**. Only one history course is required, and History II does ***not*** have a prerequisite of History I. A course **SEQUENCE** in Literature or History is required for graduation (e.g. **both** World History I ***and*** II). Contact your advisor for questions concerning this requirement.

Area IV elective

Students may choose an elective from the approved Area IV list on the STARS website http://stars.troy.edu/approved_courses/aum_area.html. A course on an elective list that is being used to meet another requirement **cannot** count as your elective course. For example, if you have taken HIST 1010 (from the Area IV list) to meet the History requirement, then that course **cannot** be used as an Area IV elective. Additionally, PSYC 2110 Psychology is already required in the prenursing curriculum and **cannot** be used as an Area IV elective. A course sequence in Literature or History is **required** for graduation. Contact your advisor for questions concerning this requirement.

2nd Area IV elective OR 2nd History

If a Literature sequence is taken, students may choose a **second** elective from the approved Area IV list on the STARS website http://stars.troy.edu/approved_courses/aum_area.html. A course on an elective list that is being used to meet another requirement **cannot** count as your elective course. A course sequence in Literature or History is **required** for graduation. Contact your advisor for questions concerning this requirement.

Fine Arts

A **Fine Arts** course from the following list is required to meet graduation requirements: THEA 2040 Theatre Appreciation, MUSI 2110 Music Appreciation, VISU 1000 Introduction to Art, VISU 2030 Art History I, VISU 2040 Art History II, or VISU 2600 Introduction to World Architecture. These courses have no prerequisites, no courses that follow them, and may be taken during any prenursing semester.

Applied Ethics

PHIL 2100 Applied Ethics is taught through the Philosophy department and has no prerequisite, no course following it, and may be taken in any prenursing semester. Content is focused on health care topics. Many students find this course more difficult than others. This course meets a core Area II graduation requirement.

Psychology

PSYC 2110 General Introductory Psychology has no prerequisite and may be taken in the freshman year. This course meets a core Area IV graduation requirement. Only one course follows it, **PSYC 2780 Human Growth and Development**.

Prenursing Courses with Prerequisites Reference Chart

| Prenursing Course | Prerequisite(s) |
|--|---|
| ENGL 1010 English Composition I | 1. ACT English subscore of 18 or higher OR 2. ENGL 0103 grade of “C” or higher OR 3. English placement test score of 32 or higher |
| ENGL 1020 English Composition II | 1. ENGL 1010 English Comp I (grade of “C” or higher) OR 2. ACT English subscore of 35 |
| Literature I or II | 1. ENGL 1010 English Comp I (grade of “C” or higher) AND 2. ENGL 1020 English Comp II (grade of “C” or higher) |
| STAT 2670 Elementary Statistics | 1. ACT Math subscore of 22 or higher OR 2. MATH 0803 grade of “C” or higher OR 3. Math placement test score of 46 or higher OR 4. A core-approved mathematics course grade of “C” or higher |
| BIOL 1010/1011 Cells, Molecules, & Life and Lab (formerly called Principles of Biology) | 1. MATH 0703 grade of “B” or higher, MATH 0803 grade of “C” or higher, OR ACT Math subscore of 20 or higher AND ENGL 0103 grade of “C” or higher, OR ACT English subscore of 18 or higher OR 2. BIOL 1000/1001 grade of “C” or higher |
| BIOL 3010/3011 Microbiology and Lab | 1. BIOL 1010/1011 Cells, Molecules, Life & Lab (grades of “C” or higher) AND 2. PSCI 1500/1501 Intro to Chemistry & Lab (grades of “C” or higher) OR BIOL 2100/2101 Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab (grades of “C” or higher) |
| BIOL 2100/2101 Anatomy & Physiology I and Lab | 1. BIOL 1010/1011 Cells, Molecules, Life & Lab (grades of “C” or higher) |
| BIOL 2110/2111 Anatomy & Physiology II and Lab | 1. BIOL 1010/1011 Cells, Molecules, and Life & Lab (grades of “C” or higher) AND 2. BIOL 2100/2101 Anatomy and Physiology I & Lab (grades of “C” or higher) |
| PSYC 2780 Human Growth and Development | PSYC 2110 Intro to Psychology |

Each prenursing course must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher or the course must be retaken.

Applying for School of Nursing Admission

The nursing program is a professional, limited-access program and **acceptance into the nursing program is not automatic** for prenursing majors. **Acceptance into the nursing program is not guaranteed** even if an applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements. Applications routinely outnumber the spots available and the most qualified applicants will be offered admission.

A **School of Nursing application**, which is separate from the general university application, is **required to be considered for admission to the nursing program**. The School of Nursing application is available on the university website www.aum.edu/nursingandhealth from January through March 1st for fall admission and from August 1st through October 1st for spring admission.

Application Process Timeline

| Application to Upper Division Nursing | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <i>Fall Admission</i> | <i>Spring Admission</i> |
| <i>Application Availability</i> | First week of January | August 1 |
| <i>Submission Deadline</i> | March 1 | October 1 |
| <i>TEAS score Due Date</i> | March 1 | October 1 |
| <i>Interview Time Frame</i> | Late March/early April | Late October/early November |
| <i>Admittance Notification</i> | End of April | End of November |

Eligibility requirements

Eligibility requirements for applying to the School of Nursing include (but are not limited to):

- *To apply for **Fall admission** students must have:*
 - Minimum 2.500 GPA (unadjusted and without rounding) based solely on prenursing coursework at the time of application
 - At least 2 of the 5 required lab sciences successfully completed (grades of “C” or higher) AND at least 1 of the 5 required lab science courses in progress at the time of application. (*A student who has earned two (2) grades below a “C” in Anatomy and Physiology I or Anatomy and Physiology II is not eligible to apply to the upper division of the nursing program*)
 - 22 or fewer credit hours to complete over the spring and summer semesters immediately prior to nursing entry
 - Successfully completed all prenursing courses with grades of “C” or higher *prior* to entering the nursing program
 - Completed and submitted a School of Nursing application by the posted deadline
 - Submitted an official Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) score (73 or higher preferred) to the School of Nursing by the posted deadline **OR** submitted an official composite ACT of 23 or higher to the university Admissions Office by the posted deadline

- *To apply for **Spring admission** students must have:*
 - Minimum 2.500 GPA (unadjusted and without rounding) based solely on prenursing coursework at the time of application

- At least 3 of the 5 prenursing lab sciences successfully completed by the end of the previous summer semester. (*A student who has earned two (2) grades below a “C” in Anatomy and Physiology I or Anatomy and Physiology II is not eligible to apply to the upper division of the nursing program*)
- 18 or fewer credit hours to complete over the fall semester immediately prior to nursing entry
- Successfully completed all prenursing courses with grades of “C” or higher *prior* to entering the nursing program
- Completed and submitted a School of Nursing application by the posted deadline.
- Submitted an official Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) score (73 or higher preferred) to the School of Nursing by the posted deadline **OR** submitted an official composite ACT of 23 or higher to the university Admissions Office by the posted deadline.

Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) credit must be completed within 5 years of nursing entry, or a retake of one is required. **A student who has earned two (2) grades below a “C” in Anatomy and Physiology I or in Anatomy and Physiology II is not eligible to declare or to remain in the prenursing major or to apply to the upper division of the nursing program at AUM.**

It is strongly recommended that students take the Anatomy and Physiology I and II courses at AUM, within a year of nursing entry. These courses are crucial in preparing for upper division. If this credit was achieved more than 5 years prior to nursing entry, a retake of one A&P course with a grade of “C” or higher is required. Anatomy and Physiology II is recommended.

All prenursing course work must be completed prior to entering the nursing program with grades of “C” or higher, and the prenursing GPA must remain at 2.50 or above (unadjusted and unrounded) to achieve final acceptance.

Students who are not selected for entry to the School of Nursing, may reapply during the next application period. A new School of Nursing application must be submitted each time a student applies to the program.

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)

ALL APPLICANTS to the upper division of the nursing program must submit an OFFICIAL Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) score (73 or higher preferred) to the School of Nursing OR an official ACT composite score of 23 or higher to the university Admissions Office. The TEAS is a standardized exam on basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, and English that is used to assess the readiness of a student to adjust to a nursing program.

Interviews

From the pool of qualified applicants, a select number will be chosen for interviews. To prepare for these small group interviews, students are encouraged to pursue volunteer (or paid) opportunities in a health care setting to become familiar with the nursing profession and to

confirm if nursing is a career choice that is well suited to the student's interest and aptitude.

Drug Screening

AUM School of Nursing is required to abide by the substance abuse control policies of the healthcare agencies used for clinicals. ALL nursing students are required to pass a pre-admission 7 panel urine drug screening according to current laboratory protocols prior to entering the nursing program. Additional drug screenings will be required if a student exhibits behaviors indicative of substance use or abuse after admission.

A positive pre-admission drug screen will result in denial of admission to the School of Nursing. If a student is taking a drug on the screen for a valid medical reason, a letter from the prescribing doctor stating the reasons for the medication and the expected duration of treatment must be sent to the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Background Check

Students selected for admission to the nursing program are offered admission pending an acceptable background check.

Core Performance Standards

Students admitted to the AUM School of Nursing must be able to meet the Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression when entering into clinical courses. The School of Nursing will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified nursing student with a disability. However, it must be noted that nursing is a physically and mentally demanding profession. All students must be able to continually meet core performance standards and functional abilities established to ensure that the objectives of the program are met and safe, competent patient care is provided. The following Core Performance Standards will be used by Center for Disability Services, and students, along with faculty, to determine whether or not accommodation(s) can be made reasonably. It is the responsibility of students to request accommodations in a timely manner and students are encouraged to contact the AUM Center for Disability Services for determination of reasonable accommodations. Students may not receive any accommodations unless the student has been approved for those accommodations by the AUM Center for Disability Services.

| CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Issue | Standard | Examples of Nursing Activities |
| Critical Thinking | Ability to critically think for effective clinical reasoning and clinical judgment consistent with the level of educational preparation. | Competent assessment of patients in a timely manner. Correct interpretation of assessment data, identification of necessary nursing interventions, development of appropriate nursing care plans, evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions and revision of planned interventions. |
| Cognitive | Ongoing capacity to learn new information and skills to provide safe and effective nursing care. This includes the ability to comprehend, measure, calculate, analyze and evaluate diverse forms of information. | Gain knowledge of new skills and rationales for nursing care in a timely manner. Discover and adopt new methods of providing nursing care to reflect the constantly changing health care environment. |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Interpersonal | Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. | Establish rapport and relate effectively with patients, their families, and colleagues. Work effectively with these individuals during times of physical and emotional stress. Provide care with consideration for social and cultural needs of patients and their families. |
| Communication | Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form to include professional interactions. | Follow verbal and written instructions. Clearly communicate with other health care providers through appropriate documentation of nursing interventions provided and patient responses. Provide effective patient teaching. Professional consultation with other health care providers. |
| Mobility | Physical abilities sufficient to move oneself from room to room, along hallways, and in small or confined spaces. The ability to meet the physical demands of providing nursing care. | Lifting, moving, carrying, pushing, pulling, and supporting patients, equipment and other objects independently. Standing, bending, walking, and sitting while working directly with patients and colleagues, and documenting care. |
| Motor Skills | Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care. | Perform vital signs, BLS, and physical assessment. Use equipment, hand IVs and tube feedings, draw up and give medications to include injections. Document legibly in writing or accurate type. |
| Tactile | Tactile dexterity sufficient for physical assessment. | Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, i.e. insertion of a catheter, giving injections. |
| Visual | Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care. | Reading charts, flow sheets, monitors, thermometers. Assessment of patient skin color, pupil size and movement, wound healing. Accurately prepare and administer medications. |
| Hearing | Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. | Auscultation of blood pressure, breath sounds, bowel sounds. Hearing alarms, call bells, cries for help by patients, families, and co-workers. Understanding mechanically reproduced voices. |
| Personal Behaviors | Personal behaviors consistent with the American Nurses' Association Code for Nurses. | Demonstrate personal responsibility, accountability, integrity, and honesty. Demonstrates respect for self and others through verbal and nonverbal behaviors. Avoids behavior inconsistent with professional standards such as chemical dependency and abuse, harm toward self or others, or engaging in or supporting criminal behavior. |

Adapted from Core Performance Standards Required for Nursing, Board of Directors of the Southern Council on College Education for Nursing (CCEN)

Class/Lab/Clinical schedules in Nursing School

In nursing courses, the actual days and times of the class meetings, labs, and clinicals will be set by the School of Nursing and **personal schedules, daycare schedules, and work schedules cannot be accommodated**. Please be aware that clinicals may be scheduled on weekdays, weekends, or evenings/nights. Students are encouraged to minimize work hours while completing the nursing program.

Application for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure

Following completion of the registered nursing program, the graduate may apply for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure in any state. Please contact the board of nursing for the state in which you would like to practice for information and requirements for taking the licensure exam in that state. In Alabama, please see www.abn.alabama.gov.