

FAQs Regarding the *Accelerated Nursing Major* at Concordia College

What is an accelerated nursing major?

- The accelerated nursing major is for graduates who have completed a baccalaureate degree in non-nursing major and who intend to pursue a major in nursing.

Do I obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing after I have completed the major?

- Concordia College does not confer a baccalaureate degree when this degree has already been earned. Upon completion of the accelerated nursing program the student will have acquired another major at the baccalaureate level. For example, the student will have a baccalaureate degree in [non-nursing major(s)] from [college where degree was earned] with another major in nursing.

Do I need to be admitted to the College before applying for the accelerated nursing major?

- The general application for admission to Concordia College is not completed until the applicant has been accepted into the nursing major.

If I am an LPN or have my associate degree in non-nursing major, can I apply for the accelerated nursing program?

- No. This program is only for individuals who have already acquired a baccalaureate degree in non-nursing major.
- This is not a ladder program for LPN to BSN students.

I completed my baccalaureate degree outside of the United States. What do I need to know to apply to the accelerated program at Concordia College?

- Our program is State Board approved to build on an earned baccalaureate degree in a non-nursing major from an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States. Currently, we are not able to accept applicants who do not meet these criteria.

Am I eligible to sit for the professional registered nurse (RN) licensure examination to practice as a baccalaureate-prepared RN?

- Yes. Successful completion of this program with an existing baccalaureate degree is the equivalent of baccalaureate degree in nursing.

When does this program start and how long does it run?

- Admitted students begin the major in May, the spring of application.
- Coursework is completed over approximately 18 months to finish in December.
- Students complete the coursework and clinical requirements in a sequential, lock-step fashion.

When is the application deadline?

- The application deadline is February 15.
- Applicants are notified of their admission status by the end of March.
- Students are admitted only once a year.

How do I apply to the accelerated nursing major?

- Complete and **mail** the application form and all required materials provided on the website to the nursing department at Concordia College by the deadline. (Applications are not accepted electronically. They must be mailed directly to the nursing department).
*Note: Official transcripts are to be mailed directly to the nursing department from all institutions of higher learning attended. References are to be mailed directly to the nursing department from evaluators.
- Applications are revised annually. Submit the current *Application for the Accelerated Nursing Major*.

What are the requirements for admission to the accelerated nursing major?

- The minimum GPA to be considered for application is 3.0. This is a cumulative GPA which includes all completed post high school course work.
- Applicants must have their baccalaureate degree completed at the time of application to the major (February 15).
- All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to the first course in the major. (Note that preference is given to students that have completed their pre-requisite courses prior to the application deadline)

How many students are admitted each year?

- A cohort of 10 students is admitted to the accelerated nursing major each spring.

How many applicants are there for the 10 spots in the cohort each year?

- Specific data regarding number of applicants to the major are not shared as the number of applicants varies each year.

When do I find out if I have been admitted to the program?

- Applicants are notified of their admission status by the end of March of the application year.

Is this an on-line program?

- None of the courses in the nursing major are offered on-line at Concordia College.
- Students attend classes on a "traditional" student schedule during the academic year.

Do I need to complete my prerequisite coursework at Concordia College?

- No. Pre-requisites can be completed at any institution and must be taken for a letter grade (pass/fail grading is not accepted for pre-requisite courses).

Can my transcripts be reviewed before the application period?

- We are not able to review transcripts of individuals who inquire about the major due to the large number of requests.
- Transcripts are reviewed as a part of the application process.
- Guidelines specific to prerequisite coursework are provided on the website.

Is it hard to get into the nursing program at Concordia College?

- Admission to the accelerated nursing major is competitive and based on GPA and the other application requirements (references, word processed essay, and resume).

What can I do to improve my chances of being admitted to the accelerated nursing major?

- Applicants that have completed all pre-requisite courses prior to the application deadline are given priority for admission.
- Applicants who are in the process of completing their prerequisite requirements at the time of application may be considered for admission but must complete all pre-requisite coursework by the first day of the first course in the major, which typically begins the second week of May.

Does my experience in the health care field or a related major improve my chances of being admitted?

- We do not require students to be Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Baccalaureate-prepared nurses function under a completely different scope and standard of practice. Experience in these areas does not improve or decrease an applicant's chances of admission to the program.
- The type of major completed with the earned baccalaureate degree does not have any influence on the chance of being admitted to the major.
- References that provide evidence of strength across all listed applicant evaluation criteria are important indicators of relevant experience for the major.

What is the tuition? Is there financial aid available?

- Questions related to tuition and financial aid are addressed through the Business and Financial Aid offices on campus. Their contact information is 800-699-9897 or 218-299-3004.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions about the accelerated nursing major?

- Contact Linda Wymer (Nursing Department Office Manager) at wymer@cord.edu for questions regarding the application or essay.
- Contact Dr. Polly Kloster (Chair of the Nursing Department) at kloster@cord.edu for other program-specific questions.