

# *Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at USA*

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**For RN's interested in obtaining your BSN in the Online Format**

**Q - Are all classes taught exclusively in the Online Format for both the RN-BSN Track and the RN-MSN Track?**

**YES**. We have students who live all over the United States, enrolled in both of these Online Tracks to earn their *Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing*. Classes are ALL taught exclusively in the Online Format and all field study/clinical requirements are done in your home community. Online students are **NEVER** required to come to Mobile, AL.

**Q – Are the Freshmen and Sophomore level required Prerequisite Courses the SAME for either of the Online Track, to earn my BSN?**

**YES**, the SAME (19) prerequisites courses are required for EITHER online track and you may take them in your local area, **from a fully accredited institution.**

**Q – Where can I view the LIST of Required Pre-Requisite Courses?**

**The 19 prerequisite courses are the SAME for either of the online tracks.** **For a complete listing of all (19) prerequisite courses, go to:**  
**<http://www.southalabama.edu/nursing/rnbsn.html>**

**Q - Where should I take the required prerequisite courses?**

Prospective students may take all prerequisite courses from an **ACCREDITED Institution** in your local area. You may take them in the traditional format or the online format. You must make a “C” or higher in EACH of the (19) required prerequisite courses.

**Q – I took college courses MANY years ago. Will they transfer to USA?**

As long as you took them from an **ACCREDITED Institution** and you **earned a grade of “C” or better**, **any of the required prerequisite courses you completed “years ago” will transfer to USA; this prior coursework does not expire.**

**Q – How long does it take to complete the Professional Component in either track, to be awarded the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing?**

**The MINIMUM amount of time that the Professional Component for EITHER TRACK can be completed in is: THREE SEMESTERS.**

**IMPORTANT: USA Online Nursing Students are allowed to progress through the (9) Nursing Courses for EITHER TRACK at their OWN PACE.**

**USA's TIME LIMIT to EARN your BSN:**

**All students MUST complete the Professional Component in FIVE years. This applies to EITHER of these Online Tracks, to earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.**

**Q – What is the MAXIMUM amount of time allowed to complete the Professional Component of the BSN curriculum?**

**Five years, from the time you begin the Professional Component.**

**Q – How many Nursing Courses will I be required to take online at USA to complete the program and be awarded my BSN?**

**Both Online Tracks (RN-BSN Track) and (RN-MSN Track) consist of (9) Nursing Courses. The Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing is awarded to students who enroll in either of these online tracks at USA, after you successfully complete all (9) required Nursing Courses.**

**Q – How and where do I complete the required “field study” clinical requirements for either of the online tracks?**

**All “field study” clinical hours in specified online nursing courses are completed with a faculty approved preceptor and site, in your hometown.**

**Q – How is my GPA calculated for admission to either online track, to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing?**

**For the RN-BSN Track: Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.50 in all (19) prerequisite courses, with a “C” or better in each course.**

**For the RN-MSN Track:** Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on ALL academic coursework ever attempted in college, NO exceptions.

**Regarding courses you have REPEATED:** If a prerequisite course was repeated, where you made a grade lower than a “C”, we DO include ALL grade attempts regarding a specific course when calculating your GPA.

**Example:** English 101 was taken and a student’s grade was a “D” and then the course was repeated, with “C” as the second grade attempt.

**Both grades will be calculated into the student’s GPA for admission to the Professional Component of the BSN curriculum.**

**Q – Is USA’s College of Nursing accredited?**

USA College of Nursing is approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and it is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 520, Washington, D.C., 20036-1120, Phone: 202-887-6791

**Q – What steps must I follow to first submit the University’s required Application for General Undergraduate Admission, which is later followed by submitting the USA College of Nursing Application Packet?**

**Step 1 of the Admissions Process for RN’s:**

**PRIOR to submitting your Undergraduate Admissions Application to the USA Office of Undergraduate Admissions for “*General Admission to USA to be a Transfer Student*,” which is then followed by submitting the Nursing Application Packet directly to the College of Nursing:**

**ALL applicants should verify that you have college credits that USA will ACCEPT for all the required prerequisite courses, which totals 61 semester hours of coursework you will be transferring to this university.**

**The RN-BSN Advising Office will gladly REVIEW your college academic transcripts BEFORE you actually apply for Undergraduate Admission to USA & BEFORE you actually submit your Nursing Application Packet, should you need CONFIRMATION that you are READY to submit these two specific Applications, and pay BOTH application fees for the two separate applications that you will need to complete and submit.**

**Important: If you are ENROLLED in an institution, taking final prerequisite courses at the time you actually do SUBMIT your USA Nursing Application, you MUST make note of this in your Nursing**

**Application, so that the Admissions Committee can expect those FINAL GRADES for your missing prerequisite courses.**

**Step 2** – You MUST Apply for Undergraduate Admission to USA.

Apply online, as a Transfer Student, with a Pre-Nursing Major:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/admissions/applyundergrad.html>

**Important:** Your ENTRY TERM on the above application must be the SAME SEMESTER you plan to begin the BSN Professional Component

USA Student Number and USA Email Account: will be assigned to you by the USA Office of Admissions, once you have completed Step 2.

**NOTE:** You must have **BOTH** of these to apply to the USA College of Nursing.

**Step 3** – Once you have completed Steps 1 and 2, then you can proceed with submitting the Application Packet for the College of Nursing.

**The Nursing Application Packet is the SAME for either track.** You will indicate which TRACK you plan to enter on PAGE ONE of the College of Nursing Application Packet, available on this webpage:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/nursing/rnbsn.html>

**Q – What are the Application Deadlines for College of Nursing?**

**Fall Semester:**

Applications due by **April 1**

**Spring Semester:**

Applications due by **August 1**

**Summer Semester:**

**Students are not admitted into the Professional Component during the Summer semester**

Students should apply for Undergraduate Admission to USA as a Transfer Student, PRIOR to submitting your Nursing Application Packet by the deadlines listed above. Remember you must have all OFFICIAL college transcripts mailed directly to: USA Office of Undergraduate Admissions; 2500 Meisler Hall, Mobile, AL 36688.

**Q - What happens if I submit an INCOMPLETE Nursing Application, without ALL the requested/required documents and personal information requested/required in the Nursing Application?**

Incomplete Nursing Application Packets submitted to us are difficult to process when there is **MISSING** required documentation. Each form request serves a specific purpose in the Application Process.

Most importantly, the applicant **MUST** submit ALL requested documentation, complete each form/page of the entire Nursing Application and provide all the personal information that is requested, such as all of your current immunization dates and copies of documents. This is IMPORTANT information for the Admissions Committee, to make their selection of the most qualified applicants.

**Please note when completing USA's Nursing Application Packet:**

ALL pages and forms contained in the Nursing Application Packet MUST be filled out COMPLETELY and ACCURATELY and returned to us as ONE complete packet, by the posted deadline. You must return your entire Nursing Application to us as ONE PACKET with ALL documents, INCLUDING the \$50.00 application fee, made payable to USA College of Nursing.

**Q – What are the two Application Fees that I will be required to pay?**

**Step One:**

**\$35.00 - Application fee, to apply for Undergraduate Admission to USA, Method of Entry=Transfer Student. List your Major=Pre-Nursing**

**Step Two:**

**\$50.00 - Application fee, to apply to the USA College of Nursing, for the Professional Component to earn the BSN**

*Remember, you **MUST** first apply for Undergraduate Admission to USA, **PRIOR** to submitting your Nursing Application Packet to the College of Nursing. (You must be admitted as a Transfer Student by the USA Office of Admissions before the College of Nursing can consider you for admission to the Professional Component for your BSN.)*

**Q – Where will I request to have all my OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS be MAILED to the University of South Alabama?**

**NEVER have official transcripts mailed DIRECTLY to the College of Nursing, from your home institutions.**

**You MUST request that ALL your OFFICIAL transcripts from EACH school you have ever attended be mailed DIRECTLY to:**

**USA Office of Undergraduate Admissions**

*Meisler Hall - Suite 2500; Mobile, AL 36688-0001*  
*Phone: 800-872-5247 or 251-460-6141*  
*Email: [admiss@usouthal.edu](mailto:admiss@usouthal.edu)*

**Q – What office at the University is responsible for completing my official transfer credit articulation of all my previous college coursework, so that I will know what college credits actually do transfer to USA?**

**The USA Office of Undergraduate Admission does the official transfer articulation of your coursework. This is why you MUST have your OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS from each school you attended, mailed directly to the USA Office of Undergraduate Admission. Once the articulation is completed by this office, a student will have access to it, through the PAWS system at our University.**

**(PAWS = Personal Access Web System at the University of South AL)  
To review what PAWS is, go to this link:**

[https://paws.usouthal.edu/prod/twbkwbis.P\\_GenMenu?name=homepage](https://paws.usouthal.edu/prod/twbkwbis.P_GenMenu?name=homepage)

**NOTE: The College of Nursing has access to your transfer articulation, done by the USA Office of Undergraduate Admission. With this articulation, Nursing can then CONFIRM that you do have college credit for all (19) prerequisite courses, required for admission to Nursing.**

**This is why you must FIRST apply for Undergraduate Admission, so the College of Nursing will be able to access your articulation of transfer work, completed by USA Office of Undergraduate Admissions.**

**Q – Am I eligible to receive USA Financial Aid while I am pursuing my BSN in the online format, and I'm classified as an Undergraduate Student, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing?**

**You should contact the USA Office of Financial Aid EARLY regarding ALL questions about your plans to apply for: USA's Financial Aid, Student Loans and Undergraduate Scholarships available for new students. Their office determines eligibility for all new USA Students. It is in your best interest to do this EARLY!! Their web address:**

<http://www.southalabama.edu/finaid/apply.html>

**USA Office of Financial Aid:**  
**Meisler Hall - Suite 1200**  
**Mobile, AL 36688-0001**  
**Phone: (251) 460-6231 Fax: (251) 460-6517**  
**Email: [finaid@usouthal.edu](mailto:finaid@usouthal.edu)**

**Q – Does the College of Nursing currently offer any “specific Nursing Scholarships” available for new Registered Nursing who are applying for one of these two online tracks, to earn the BSN?**

**Regretfully, the College of Nursing does NOT currently have any “specific Nursing Scholarships for Registered Nurses” that are applying for either of our Online Tracks, to earn the BSN.**

**We highly suggest to all our Applicants:** All prospective students should view the complete list of undergraduate scholarships offered at USA and contact the Financial Aid Office, regarding ALL questions about ANY of these university-wide scholarships. View this list at:

**<http://www.southalabama.edu/admissions/ugscholar.html>**

**Q – What are USA’s Online Tuition Rates for the College of Nursing?**

Go to the following link for USA’s Current Online Tuition Rates, which apply to all Online Nursing courses and any other online courses you enroll in at this University.

**To view USA’s Online Tuition Rates, go to:**

**<http://usaonline.southalabama.edu/index.real?action=financial&subaction=tuitionfees>**

**To calculate the estimated cost for your specific track:**

**Multiply the TOTAL number of hours in YOUR track, times the current online tuition rate per semester hour for Nursing Students. Remember this does NOT include: Books/misc. fees.**

**Q – I am a Registered Nurse, and I currently have a Bachelor’s Degree in a Non-Nursing Area. What nursing program is available for me since I already have a Bachelor’s Degree in another field?**

Please refer to the following webpage, if you currently have a Bachelor's Degree in a Non-Nursing area:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/nursing/rnmsnnonnursing.html>

Questions regarding the above option, for RN's with a Bachelor's Degree in a non-nursing area:

Students interested in this option must contact the MSN Advisors:  
Gail Soles or Mr. Eric Light; 251/445-9400

Please Email all your questions to: [congrad@usouthal.edu](mailto:congrad@usouthal.edu)

Note: RN's with a "prior Non-Nursing Bachelor's Degree", who do NOT meet the required admissions requirements for the MSN Option listed above may consider earning a second bachelor's degree, the BSN, by applying for the Online RN-BSN Track. These RN's may contact the RN-BSN Advising Office regarding the admission requirements to earn your second bachelor's degree.

**Q – Where is information located on the web, regarding all MSN Programs available at USA? I plan to apply to USA for Graduate School, AFTER first earning my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, through one of the two Online Tracks for RN's?**

View the MSN link: <http://www.southalabama.edu/nursing/msn.html>

Questions regarding all Graduate Nursing Programs at USA:

USA Advisors for Graduate Nursing Programs are:

Gail Soles or Eric Light; 251/445-9400

For all DNP inquires, contact Mrs. Mary Phillips; 251/445-9400

Please email your questions regarding MSN and DNP Programs to:  
[congrad@usouthal.edu](mailto:congrad@usouthal.edu)

*Thank you for your interest in the University of South Alabama College of Nursing.*

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