

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
College of Nursing
Health Sciences Building, Room 3068
University Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36688

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about:

[General Nursing Application](#)

[Accelerated Program](#)

[CLEP – College Level Examination Program](#)

[GPA for Competition](#)

[General Nursing Application](#)

Q - If I am accepted as a nursing major by the USA Office of Admissions, does this mean that I am automatically accepted to the professional component of nursing?

No. Acceptance to the professional component is competitive as listed under **ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE B.S.N.** in the [USA Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin](#).

Q – When and how do I apply for the professional component of the College of Nursing?

First, you must apply and be accepted to the University of South Alabama, Office of Admissions. The nursing application process has been streamlined to one page with two instruction pages. It can be picked up at the College of nursing, mailed to you, or downloaded from the [College of Nursing website](#).

Prerequisites do not have to be completed before you apply, but must be completed with a grade of C or better before you can take nursing courses. Application deadlines for the USA College of Nursing professional component are as follows:

Fall semester are due April 1 – traditional (Mobile/Fairhope) and accelerated (Mobile)

Spring semester are due September 1- traditional (Mobile/Fairhope) and accelerated (Fairhope)

Summer semester are due February 1 – traditional (Mobile/Fairhope)

Submit a completed application packet via US Postal Service to: University of South Alabama College of Nursing, 307 University Blvd N, Bldg. Health Sciences Building, Mobile, Alabama 36688-0002 or via UPS or FedEx to: University of South Alabama College of Nursing, Student Services, Health Sciences Building, 307 University Blvd., Mobile, AL 36688. If accepted to the professional component, you will be mailed further information in an acceptance packet.

Q – Do I have to submit all proof of immunizations (2MMRs, tetanus, Hepatitis B series, 2-step PPD, chicken pox), physical, CPR certification, medical insurance, and waiver forms by the nursing application deadline date?

No. However, if you are accepted all of this will be required before the nursing orientation date. A packet of the required information and acceptance forms will be mailed to all students who are accepted.

Q – Will my application be considered if it is submitted past the deadline date?

If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, we will consider the postmark date. Otherwise, the application will not be considered until the following term.

Q – What is the requirement if I have attended a previous nursing program?

You must furnish a letter of good standing from the dean of the nursing program attended along with a transcript from that institution with grades indicated. No prior nursing courses taken elsewhere will be accepted for credit for the USA nursing program.

Q – Will I be notified if my application is incomplete?

Yes. If you are accepted into the program, an attempt will be made to contact you from the information that you provide on the nursing application.

Q – How long will it be before I hear if I have been accepted to the Professional Component?

Letters usually are mailed 8 – 10 weeks after the deadline date to the address on the nursing application.

Accelerated Program:

Q – Is a prior BS or BA degree required to be considered for the Accelerated MSN program?

Yes - consideration is only given to those with a prior BS/BA. In the past several years all of those accepted to the program have a prior BS/BA.

Q – Once I complete the required nursing courses for a BSN in the Accelerated MSN program can I stop the program?

Yes. However, in two to three more semesters you could graduate with an MSN as a Nurse Educator, Nurse Administrator, or Clinical Nurse Leader.

CLEP:

Q – Can I CLEP prerequisite courses?

Yes. The USA Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin will explain which [CLEP](#) tests and scores are acceptable.

GPA for Competition:

Q - What is a competitive GPA for nursing school?

The Traditional five-semester program - An average 3.0 and higher depending on the competition.

The Accelerated MSN program – An average of 3.5 and higher depending on the competition.

Q - Can a failing grade or withdraw (WD) be removed from my academic transcript?

Once a grade is posted to your transcript it cannot be removed or changed unless proven to be an error on the part of the institution or instructor.

Q – What is USA’s Grade Replacement policy for the same course taken at USA more than once?

Once the same course is retaken (cannot be a transfer course), the student can submit a [Grade Replacement Application](#). Up to three prerequisite grades may be considered for replacement by a higher grade. This form must be approved by the student’s Academic Advisor and the Dean of the College of Nursing before it can be submitted to the Office of Registrar. **Those holding a prior Bachelor’s Degree are not eligible for Grade Replacement.**

Q - How is the GPA for the nursing school competition calculated on the prerequisite courses?

A Quality point (QP) system is used:

- Each grade is assigned points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- The grade points are multiplied by the number of credit hours for the course (A=4X3credit hour course) = 12 QP
- All QPs are added up and divided by the total number of credit hours completed (including the same course taken more than once). This gives the GPA.
- **NOTE: IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING TO DO THIS FOR ALL GRADES IF THE COURSE IS TAKEN MORE THAN ONCE. THIS TENDS TO LOWER YOUR GPA FOR THE COMPETITION.**