

Common Pathways to a Nursing Degree for Sacramento State Students

This resource was created by faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences to help Sac State students interested in pursuing a Nursing Degree. All information contained in this file was freely available on the web. This information does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Sacramento State Division of Nursing. Students interested in Sac State Nursing should seek advising and information on campus directly from the Division of Nursing website or staff. This file is most useful when viewed in slideshow mode to allow use of links to internet information when indicated.

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Option 1: Sacramento State Nursing BSN program, highly competitive, advising resources on campus at the Division of Nursing. Many qualified and competitive students cannot be admitted due limited enrollment

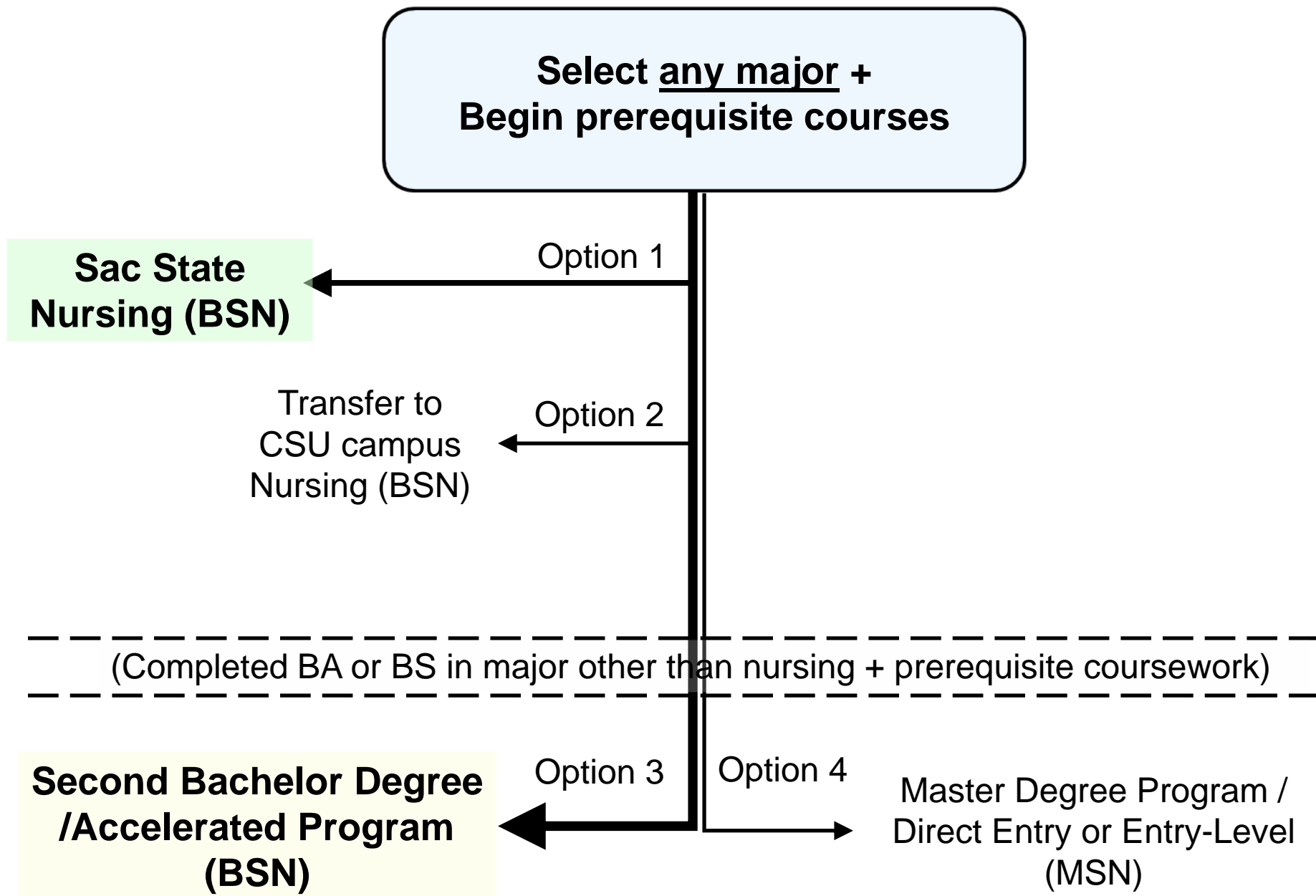
Option 2: Transfer to other California State University or college to complete BSN; contact schools of interest for details and prerequisites

Option 3: Apply to accelerated or second degree BSN programs after graduation from Sacramento State with any non-nursing BS/BA degree. You can complete ANY major at Sac State while completing prerequisite courses for nursing. Prerequisites required vary by program; contact schools of interest for details.

Option 4: Apply to direct-entry or entry-level MSN program after graduation from Sacramento State with any non-nursing BS/BA degree. You can complete ANY major at Sac State while completing prerequisite courses for nursing. Prerequisites required vary by program; contact schools of interest for details.

Option 5: other options exist for RN programs that are not shown here

Pathways to a Nursing Career for Sac State students



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**Select any major +
Begin prerequisite courses**

Any major leading to BS or BA

Health Sciences
Gerontology
Kinesiology
Biology
Psychology
History, Art, Sociology
Family and Consumer Sciences
Communication Studies

These are just examples
of majors on campus.
Those interested in
accelerated BSN or direct-
entry MSN programs can
graduate with ANY major!

(Completed BA or BS in major other than nursing + prerequisite coursework)

**Second Bachelor Degree
/Accelerated Program
(BSN)**

Special Master Degree
Program / Direct Entry (MSN)

Many programs throughout California and the U.S.

How competitive is Sac State Nursing? Very!

Spring 2009 Applicant Pool Statistics for Sacramento State Nursing

327 Generic applicants (**61 enrolled**, 202 qualified alternates)

Statistics for 61 enrolled students:

Average **GPA** – **3.91** (range 3.69 – 4.0)

Average **TEAS** test score – 92.0% (range 84.7% – 97.1%)

I doubt that I can get into Sac State Nursing, can I still become a nurse?

Of course, but keep in mind that nursing programs vary in their competitiveness. Depending on your GPA, you might need to apply to many programs across the state or even across the country. Many have minimum GPA requirements of 3.0. Many students will have a better chance of graduating from Sacramento State with a non-nursing degree and then applying to BSN or MSN programs at other colleges or universities in CA and even outside the state. The key is to select a major you will enjoy and do well in your courses while also taking the prerequisites needed for nursing. Prerequisites vary by program but many of the basic courses are common among programs (microbiology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, stats) but it is best to research and contact schools. You don't need to finish all your prerequisites to graduate from Sacramento State but you will need them to apply to programs.

The following slides have information related to accelerated BSN programs and direct entry MSN programs which are a good option for students that have completed a non-nursing degree (BS or BA) but would like to pursue a career in nursing.

Career Pathways in Nursing: Entry Points and Academic Progression

Raines. C.F., Taglaireni, M.E., (Sept. 2008) "Career Pathways in Nursing: Entry Points and Academic Progression" *OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*; 13

The article linked below discusses the traditional entry points into Registered Nursing, specifically Baccalaureate Degree Programs, Associate Degree Programs, and Diploma Programs, as well as emerging routes, which include entry-level master's programs and accelerated baccalaureate programs. **The following PowerPoint slides contain short descriptions of accelerated BSN and direct entry MSN programs taken from the linked article.** Please feel free to click the link below in slideshow mode to access the full article available online.

[Click here to link to source: Online Journal of Issues in Nursing](#)

Accelerated BSN Programs for Graduates of Non-Nursing Disciplines

Accelerated baccalaureate programs offer the quickest route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have already completed a bachelor's or graduate degree in a non-nursing discipline. These programs generally take between 11 and 18 months to complete, including prerequisites.

Accelerated baccalaureate programs accomplish programmatic objectives in a shorter time by building on prior learning. Instruction is intense with courses offered full-time with no breaks between sessions. Students receive the same number of clinical hours as their counterparts in traditional entry-level nursing programs.

Over the past five years, the number of accelerated baccalaureate nursing programs has expanded rapidly, and these programs are now available in 43 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In 2007, there were 205 accelerated baccalaureate programs enrolling students, compared to 90 programs that were available in 2002.

Entry-Level Master's Programs

Interest in entry-level or generic master's programs is running high among career changers wishing to enter nursing at an advanced level. Designed for individuals with undergraduate degrees in fields other than nursing, these 28-36 month programs build on previous learning experiences and prepare graduates for teaching, research, and specialty nursing roles. According to American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2007 survey of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, 56 entry-level master's programs are enrolling students at nursing schools in the US, and 13 new programs are under development. Enrollments in and graduations from these programs are on the rise.

Exciting new options among entry-level master's degrees are programs that prepare nurses for advanced generalist roles, including the Clinical Nurse Leader. Some Masters programs also prepare you to gain licensure as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, a Certified Midwife, a Clinical Nurse Specialist or a Nurse Practitioner.

Some useful links (remember you can click the text box in slideshow mode to go to these websites automatically:

Excellent overview of applying to nursing programs from UC Berkeley's Career Center

<http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/NursPrep.stm>

List of accelerated nursing programs in CA

http://bunny.ucdavis.edu/advising/hsa/handouts/accelerated_nursing_programs_in_ca.html

Partial list of direct entry / entry level MSN programs in CA and USA

<http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/NursApp.stm#direct>

Partial list of direct entry / entry level MSN programs in USA

<http://www.allnursingschools.com/featured/accelerated-msn/>

UCLA School of Nursing direct entry MSN program

http://www.nursing.ucla.edu/admissions/MECN/MECN_programdescription.html