Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Transfer Admission Information Packet

Preferred Application Deadlines

Spring Semester: December 1    Fall Semester: February 15

Please read this Information Packet carefully as it contains important information on procedures and minimum requirements for applications to be reviewed.

Please also thoroughly read the Frequently Asked Questions section included in this packet for answers to common questions regarding the application process.

In order to be considered for admission, applicants are required to meet the following criteria and submit the required application and materials:

1. A minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.0 across all college or university courses taken. A cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better is preferred.

2. A grade of B minus (B-) or better in all Prerequisite Science Courses taken after August 30, 2014 and a grade of C or better in all Prerequisite Science Courses taken prior to August 30, 2014. Grades of B or better are preferred. It is recommended that transfer applicants complete at least one (1) but no more than three (3) Prerequisite Science Courses in order to best align with the USJ Nursing track for maximum transferability.

3. If a student earns less than B minus (B-) in any science or Nursing courses starting fall semester 2014, one repeat of a science and one repeat of a nursing course is permitted.

4. All Prerequisite Science Courses and Additional Required Courses must have been completed within the past eight (8) years.

5. Application requirements:
   a. Completed application for admission submitted online at www.usj.edu/apply.
   b. Official, final high school transcript.
   c. Official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended.
   d. Personal statement indicating interest in nursing and strength of academic preparation for success in nursing (strongly recommended, but not required).
   e. Letter of recommendation (strongly recommended, but not required).
6. Interviews are granted for students who have submitted an application and transcripts and who have the minimum GPA of 3.0.

7. Admitted students must also complete a criminal background check and drug screen before taking their first nursing courses.

PREREQUISITE SCIENCE COURSES AND ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES

**Prerequisite Science Courses.** The following are the required Prerequisite Science Courses for the nursing program as listed in the University of Saint Joseph Catalog:

**BIOL 241 Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credits)**
This course emphasizes the micro- and macroscopic organization of cells and tissues in the human body as they relate to the function of the organ systems. Topics in this first section include tissue/histology overview, integumentary, musculoskeletal, and nervous systems including sensory systems. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently.

**BIOL 242 Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credits)**
Continuation of BIOL241 Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology I. Topics include cardiovascular, immune, respiratory, excretory, digestive, endocrine, and reproductive systems. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently.

**CHEM 170 Principles of Inorganic and Organic Chemistry (4 credits)**
Introduction to the basic principles of chemistry with focus on structure, properties, and reactions of representative inorganic and organic compounds. Special emphasis on applications to health related fields. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently.

**BIOL 301 Microbiology (4)**
A general introduction to the multidisciplinary field of microbiology. Included topics are: Prokaryotic structure and diversity, microbial nutrition and control, a variety of techniques, virus diversity and reproductive strategies, fungal and protist parasites, anti-microbial medicines, basic immune system function and vaccines, epidemiology, food microbiology, and microbial ecology. Includes a survey of selected viruses, fungi, protozoa, and bacteria and introduces microscopy, staining, isolation and growth of selected bacteria, antibiotic sensitivity testing, mold identification, immunological testing for HIV, sterile techniques and observation of example organisms.

**CHEM 240 Biochemistry (4 credits)**
Descriptive approach to the chemistry of the human body and includes study of the structures and properties of the major classes of biomolecules, enzyme catalysis, metabolism and chemical aspects of genetics. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently.
**Additional Required Courses.** The following are the Additional Required Courses (as listed in the University of Saint Joseph Catalog) that may be accepted in transfer or taken as part of the program after a student has been accepted:

**NUTR 380 Nutrition for Nursing Practice** (3 credits)
Study of all the nutrients, carbohydrates, protein, lipids, vitamins, and minerals, including functions and requirements, and the changing nutritional needs in various stages of the lifecycle. Discussion of dietary treatment of specific disease states.

**PSYC 238 Human Development Across the Lifespan** (3 credits)
Development of the human being throughout the lifespan from conception to old age. Considering the life cycle as a whole, reviews the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial dimensions of each stage of human life. Special emphasis on the significance of human diversity and its implications for research, theory, and practice.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing**

**Application and Admissions Questions**

1. **I meet the minimum criteria for acceptance into the Nursing program. Am I guaranteed admission?** Admission into the Nursing program is competitive. We encourage all students, particularly those who meet the preferred admission criteria, to apply, but admission is not guaranteed. The most qualified candidates are selected for a limited number of spaces.

2. **If I am accepted, am I guaranteed a seat in the Nursing program?** For students accepted into the University for Nursing, formal admission into the Nursing Department will occur provided you meet departmental admission policies. Upon admission, students will be notified of the Nursing track for which they are being offered a seat.

3. **What if I do not have all of the Prerequisite Science Courses completed? May I still apply?** Transfer students who do not have all of the Prerequisite Science Courses completed may apply. It is recommended that transfer applicants have completed at least one (1) but no more than three (3) Prerequisite Science Courses in order to best align with the Nursing track for maximum transferability.

4. **What if I don't meet the admission criteria?** All students are welcome to apply; however, spaces are sufficiently limited and admission-competitive that it is unlikely that an applicant without the minimum or preferred criteria will be considered a viable candidate.

5. **What if I don’t meet the admission criteria for nursing? May I be considered for another major?** Students interested in the Nursing program must indicate this on their admission application. Transfer applicants who meet the University’s overall transfer admission criteria but do not meet the nursing criteria may be offered admission into another major provided they make their request in writing and with the understanding that it is unlikely that they will be able to pursue nursing at a later date. This option is only recommended for students who are seriously interested in an alternative major.
6. **May I apply if I already have a bachelor’s degree in another major?** Applicants who already have a bachelor’s degree are encouraged to explore our Accelerated Second Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing program by visiting [www.usj.edu/asd-nursing](http://www.usj.edu/asd-nursing).

7. **I am currently taking Prerequisite Science Courses. What do I need to provide?** Students with any courses in progress must submit an official transcript of in progress coursework and must submit a final, official transcript as soon as grades are posted and prior to the start of classes. Admission is contingent upon successful completion of any in progress coursework.

8. **What if I attended school outside the United States?** Students who have attended college outside of the United States need to submit an official evaluation of international credits that states the U.S. course/degree equivalency. An evaluation may be obtained through any NACES ([http://www.naces.org/](http://www.naces.org/)) member institution, such as World Education Service ([www.wes.org/](http://www.wes.org/)). An official copy of the evaluation—in a sealed envelope—must be submitted at the time of application.

9. **I am currently an International student studying in the United States on a student visa. May I apply to the program?** International students should visit our International Students webpage for application and admission requirements specifically for International students.

10. **I have a copy of my transcript, but it is opened. Will this be accepted?** In order for a transcript to be considered official, it must be submitted to the University of Saint Joseph in a sealed envelope and must bear the official seal of the college or university. Unofficial or opened transcripts are not accepted.

11. **Who is eligible to apply to USJ for Nursing?** Women interested in transferring into the Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing program may apply as transfer students using the Undergraduate Programs for Women application found online at [www.usj.edu/apply](http://www.usj.edu/apply).

12. **Who makes the admission decision?** Admission decisions are made by the Nursing Admissions Committee, but the process is centralized in the Office of Admissions.

13. **Where do I send my admission application and transcripts?** Please apply online at [www.usj.edu/apply](http://www.usj.edu/apply). Official transcripts and the rest of your application materials should be sent to:

   University of Saint Joseph  
   Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
   1678 Asylum Avenue  
   West Hartford, CT 6117-2791

**Prerequisite Science Course and Additional Required Course Questions**

14. **I took my Prerequisite Science Courses at a Connecticut community college. How do I know if they will be accepted?** The University of Saint Joseph has course equivalencies with Connecticut’s community colleges posted online. To find out which courses are accepted in transfer from these institutions, please visit [www.usj.edu/articulation](http://www.usj.edu/articulation).

15. **My Prerequisite Science Courses were taken over 8 years ago. Must these be retaken?** Biology and Chemistry courses that were taken more than eight (8) years ago are not accepted in transfer toward nursing program prerequisite requirements. Applicants will need to retake these courses.
16. I took one of the Prerequisite Science Courses but did not take the lab. Will this meet the prerequisite? Prerequisite Science Courses are only accepted to meet the requirement if they are taken with a lab.

17. I took an undergraduate class that has a different name from a prerequisite you require, but I think it covered similar material. Will this meet the requirement? In most cases the course will not be the same, or the course may partially meet a requirement. Students are encouraged to carefully read the Prerequisite Science and Additional Required Course descriptions prior to applying. Applicants may submit a detailed course description or course syllabus with their application for our credit evaluator to review. For example, at the University of Saint Joseph, CHEM 170 covers both organic and inorganic chemistry. It may be possible for a prospective student’s chemistry course to be accepted in transfer to partially meet the CHEM 170 requirement if the course covers only inorganic chemistry.

18. I received a pass/fail grade on a Prerequisite Course. Will this count? Courses must be graded to be accepted in transfer. If the student’s transcript contains a notation from the institution that a P is equivalent to a minimum specified grade; however, it may be possible for the course to count toward the Prerequisite Science or Additional Required Courses.

19. I am not sure if the courses I have taken meet the Prerequisite Courses. How can I find out? If you have taken your courses at a Connecticut community college, this information can be found online at www.usj.edu/articulation. If you attended a different college or university and if you meet the requirements for the program and are accepted, a formal credit evaluation will be done. If you have any questions, in the meantime, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 860.231.5216 or attend an information session. For a current list of upcoming events, please visit our Events on Campus webpage.

Nursing Program Questions

20. With what health care facilities does USJ have clinical placements for students? All major hospitals in Hartford and surrounding areas.

21. May I work full-time or part-time during the Nursing Program? Most Nursing courses are offered during the daytime, and due to the rigors of the program, students may only be able to work part-time.

22. Is financial aid available? Yes, for matriculated students taking at least 6 credits per semester. Students interested in applying for financial aid should submit their FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The University of Saint Joseph school code is 001409.

23. What if I am accepted and my GPA falls below the minimum and/or I receive a grade lower than a B minus (B-) in a required science or nursing course? Once in the Nursing program, students must maintain a Nursing GPA in accordance with the Nursing progression policy at all times throughout the program. In addition, students must earn a B minus (B-) or better in all sciences and Nursing courses to continue to progress. If a student earns below a B minus (B-) in any of the required science or nursing courses, one (1) repeat of a science course and one (1) repeat of a nursing course is permitted. Students must repeat the course before they can progress. No more than one (1) science or Nursing course may be repeated.
24. **Are students required to take an exit exam in order to graduate from the Nursing program?** Yes. Students take the Comprehensive Exam as a graduation requirement.

25. **What is USJ’s pass rate for the NCLEX exam?** University of Saint Joseph students historically achieve strong results on the NCLEX exam.

I have read through the packet and determined that I meet the minimum admission criteria to apply as a candidate for the nursing program at the University of Saint Joseph. Click here to apply online: [www.usj.edu/apply](http://www.usj.edu/apply)