



# **ABSN PROGRAM 101 Guide**

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Your road map to nursing school.



# Accelerate Your Nursing Career.

Thank you for your interest in the ABSN program at Xavier University. It's great to see more people, like you, considering nursing as a second career. After all, our nation needs nurses now more than ever before, and we can prepare you for the profession in as few as 16 months.



Because there's a lot that goes into the accelerated path to nursing, we created this road map to help you navigate your nursing school journey. From choosing an enrollment location to providing valuable nursing school tips, this guide covers everything you need to know about our ABSN program.



# The Power of Three.

With locations in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio, our ABSN program puts a quality nursing education within your reach. Each location has three start dates a year—in January, May, and August. Thus, we can enroll a high number of students per year, and you don't have to wait to start your education.



No matter which of our ABSN program locations you choose, you'll complete the same accredited curriculum and have the same opportunities for nursing school success. Be sure to live within driving distance of your enrollment location. You'll visit the site regularly to attend nursing labs and take proctored exams.



## Relocation Guides

Thinking about moving to Ohio to start your nursing education? Contact your admission counselor and ask about our free Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus relocation guides.

# Hit the Ground Running.

Our ABSN program makes a 16-month transition into nursing possible by building on your non-nursing bachelor's degree. Comprising 63 credit hours, this full-time accredited program has you dive right into professional nursing study on the first day of class.



Our ABSN curriculum follows a sequence of **online coursework**, **hands-on nursing labs**, and **in-person clinical rotations**. It's a rigorous learning path that requires you to spend 40 or more hours on your education per week to be successful.

Overall, our ABSN program provides the academic foundation and clinical readiness required to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN®) and enter the profession with confidence.

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“I LOVE the Xavier nursing faculty, absolutely love them. They are in your corner and want to see you succeed.”

— Brianna, 2018 ABSN Program Graduate





# Learn Anytime, Anywhere.

Online coursework lays the foundation of your education by teaching you the fundamentals and theories of nursing. These courses also set the stage for the hands-on skills you'll develop during your nursing labs and clinicals.



Online learning isn't as flexible as people think. While you can study at 10 a.m. or 10 p.m., you're still held accountable for meeting assignment deadlines.

Success with online learning requires discipline, commitment, and organization. Self-motivation is also necessary because there's no one looking over your shoulder to hold you accountable. So if you need clarification on an assignment, you must take the initiative to contact your instructor.

## Online Learning Environment

Our online courses consist of different learning modules. Within each course module, there are different assignments that engage you in the learning process. You must complete all of these assignments by the specified date.

Module components typically include:

- Textbook readings
- Patient case studies
- Active learning guides
- NCLEX-RN® preparation material

You'll also need to prepare for your nursing skills and simulation labs using the system. We provide you with a lab guide and checklist in advance so that you come to your labs prepared.

# Practice Without Risk.

You'll regularly attend nursing labs at your designated enrollment location. Here, your instructors will teach you how to apply the concepts you learned online in a mock clinical setting. These labs also help remove the fear of the unknown, making it easier to transition into clinicals.



## Nursing Skills Labs

These labs cover the safe application of core clinical skills such as catheter insertion, intramuscular injections, and wound care.

While most of these labs occur during the first semester, you're encouraged to sign up for extra lab practice throughout the program.

## Nursing Simulation Labs

These labs focus on developing your critical thinking, problem-solving, and clinical judgment via a series of simulations across the continuum of care.

Depending on the learning objective, a human patient simulator or a real person plays the patient role.

*Please be aware that due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations, our labs could change at any time without prior student notification.*



“Being able to participate in quality nursing simulations allowed me to go into the clinical setting with more confidence.”

— Diane, 2020

ABSN Program Graduate

# Experience the Real World.

We provide some of the best clinical placements of any nursing school in Ohio. It's because we have a robust network of health-care partners in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus. Your clinicals—which begin in semester one—will take place at facilities within driving distance of your enrollment location.

Our diverse clinical placement sites—hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient facilities—allow you to gain practical experience in caring for patients across the health-care continuum.

In semester four, you'll participate in a role transition experience where you practice alongside a preceptor in a specific area of patient care. You'll work the same shifts as this nurse and play an active role in patient care.

## Helpful Hint

Always offer to help those around you during clinical downtime. Being proactive and helpful during your clinical rotations goes a long way when it comes time to begin your job search—you'll need references.

*Please note we cannot guarantee placement in a specific hospital or health care facility. Also, due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations, our clinicals could change at any time without prior student notification.*



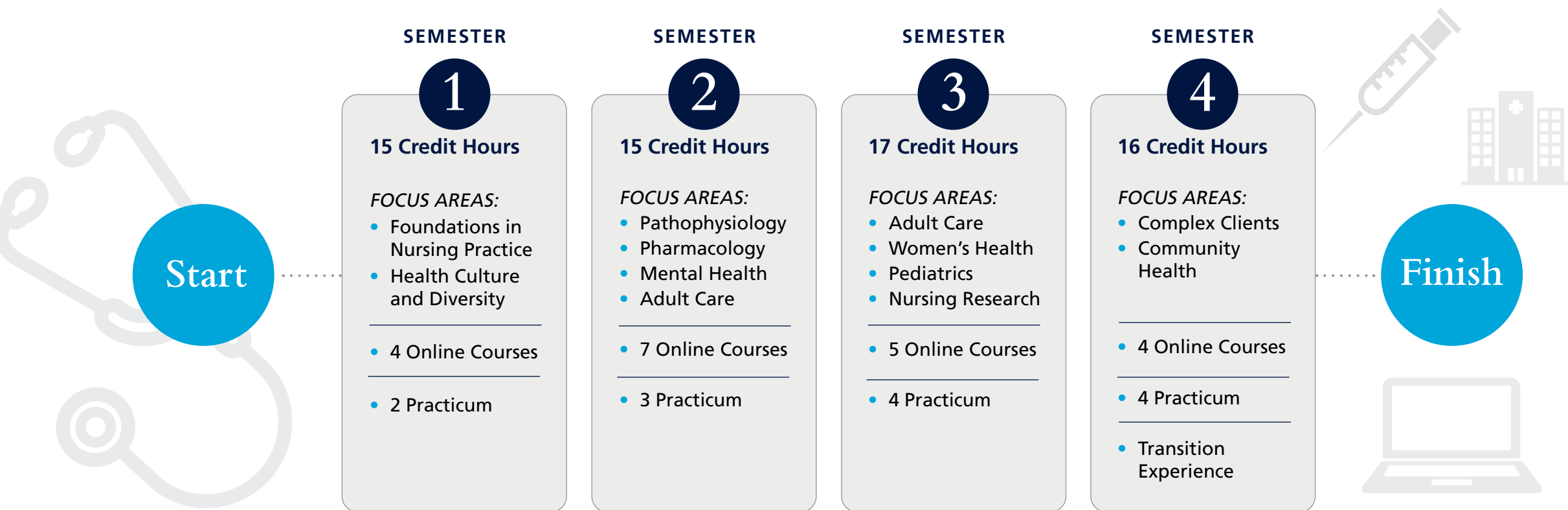
“Your preceptor expects you to be doing things as she or he would do them. You can't go into the role transition experience as a student, you have to go in as a nurse.”

— Lauren, 2018  
ABS N Program Graduate



# From Start to Finish.

As an ABSN student, you'll learn the fundamentals of nursing practice via the online coursework. From there, you'll convert that knowledge into psychomotor skills during your nursing labs. Then your rotations have you pull everything together within the scope of diverse clinical practice. Overall, you can expect to clock 855 hours of clinical practice, which constitutes both lab and practicum time.





## No Muss, No Fuss.

Applying to nursing school doesn't have to be complicated, and our admission team can prove it. You'll work closely with an assigned counselor who will support you through every step of the admission process. Think of your counselor as your personal assistant for getting into nursing school.



Your admission counselor is committed to helping you submit the most competitive application possible—but you must maintain regular contact with him or her.

### Four-Step Admission Process

1. **Verify** your program eligibility with an admission counselor.
2. **Work** with your counselor on a personalized enrollment plan.
3. **Satisfy** the four ABSN prerequisite course requirements.
4. **Complete** and submit your application before the deadline.



### Are You Eligible?

A non-nursing bachelor's degree and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 is required to begin our admission process. You must also complete four prerequisite courses within our specified requirements to enter the program.

“From my first admissions call, I knew I wanted to go to Xavier. My counselor called me often to make sure I was keeping up with the application process. She helped me through it all. It wasn't intimidating. She made it easy for me.”

— Erin, 2018 ABSN Program Graduate

# Be Up to the Challenge.

Nursing school in and of itself requires a lot of hard work and dedication to succeed—even more so when it’s at an accelerated pace. So when completing your application, we want to see that you have the time, energy, and resources to commit to full-time nursing study.



As we review applications, we’re looking for highly determined individuals who are problem solvers, critical thinkers, and receptive learners. In other words, you must be able to identify issues and develop solutions, prioritize and make decisions, and internalize new information. We’re also looking for authentic applicants who know why they want to become a nurse.

“Everyone knows that nursing school is hard and stressful, but you just have to breathe and relax. This program is less intimidating than I thought it would be.”

— Ayana, 2020 ABSN Program Graduate



# Stand Out From the Crowd.

While our admission team works hard to make the admission process as straightforward as possible, there are things you can do to increase your chances of getting into our ABSN program.



We review student applications as they come in, so the earlier you submit your application, the better your chances of getting a spot in your preferred term.

As part of your application, you must submit a letter of intent, current resume, recommendation letters, and official academic transcripts.

## Letter of Intent

Aside from your academic qualifications, we want a sense of who you are as a person. With your letter of intent, we want to know why you want to become a nurse and how you plan to get through nursing school at an accelerated pace.

As you start to write your letter, consider the following:

- **Be memorable** when you describe what inspired you to become a nurse.
- **Be passionate** when explaining your commitment to the profession.
- **Be real** and write from the heart when describing your motivation.
- **Be direct** by using clear, concise language that gets to the point.

## Recommendation Letters

Contact your references sooner rather than later. And, don't be shy about giving them a deadline to write and submit their letters. You don't want to risk missing the application deadline.

# Secrets to Success.

As an ABSN student, you'll have a lot on your plate, spending up to 60 hours a week on your education. The good news is there are things you can do to keep pace with the accelerated curriculum. We've found the most effective students are those who do the following:



## 1. Study Smart

Identify ways you can make your study time more effective and efficient.

- **Develop** strategies based on how you learn best.
- **Create** and adhere to a consistent study routine.
- **Focus** on comprehension instead of memorization.
- **Study** at a time of day when you feel your best (10 a.m. or 10 p.m.)
- **Form** or join a study group with your classmates.

## 2. Stay Organized

Organization and time management are vital to nursing school success, so find tools that will help you stay motivated and on task.

- **Invest** in a planner that allows you to use the time-blocking method.
- **Buy** a binder to keep all of your notes and handouts in one place.

## 3. Schedule Breaks

Make self-care part of your study routine. Taking time to do whatever makes you feel recharged and relaxed is critical to your success. When you fail to take breaks, you put yourself at risk for burnout.

## 4. Seek Help

If you get stuck on a concept, ask your instructor or academic success coach for help right away. You don't want to risk falling behind and not being able to get back on track. Our faculty and support staff make themselves available to see you through the rigors of nursing school.



## Leaders at the Bedside.

Our nursing graduates are well-respected in the health-care community. Xavier nursing alumni are seen as knowledgeable, professional, and ethical. Not to mention, they enter the workforce prepared to meet the current and future challenges of an ever-evolving health-care system.



By choosing Xavier for your BSN, you'll enter the workforce able to demonstrate:

- Thoughtful, compassionate, and competent patient care across the lifespan.
- Care that meets the unique faith and cultural needs of patients.
- Critical thinking that's vital to professional judgment and ethical decision-making.
- Leadership in interdisciplinary patient care situations.

“Our clinical partners like hiring Xavier ABSN graduates because they know they are getting a top-notch nurse.”

— Martine Weaver, ABSN Site Director, Columbus





**Cincinnati ABSN Learning Center**

615 Elsinore Place, 7th Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**Cleveland ABSN Learning Center**

6050 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 200  
Independence, Ohio 44131

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