

So You Want to be a Nurse Practitioner... Helpful Tips to Consider at Each Stage of Education

High School Preparation

- ❖ GPA (3.0+) – higher = better!
- ❖ ACT scores (28+) – higher = better!
- ❖ Shadowing Hours
 - Multiple health care settings: Clinic, hospital, nursing home, home health
- ❖ Community Service Hours (100+) in healthcare
- ❖ Establish a relationship with a mentor at Bellin to walk you through the process
- ❖ Research Universities with Your Program of Interest
 - Associates Degree in Nursing-must continue to get BSN
 - BSN: 4yr degree
 - Bellin College of Nursing
 - University of Wisconsin systems
 - Accelerated Degree BSN
 - Bellin College of Nursing
 - Concordia University
 - UW systems
- ❖ Classes recommended to prepare:
 - Human Anatomy and Physiology
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Medical Terminology
 - Basic and Advanced Math
- ❖ Arrange and Complete Campus Visits
 - Goals: Get Them to Know Your Name; Speak to their Mission and Vision; Ask lots of questions about their program
 - People to Meet:
 - Admissions Counselor
 - Dean of College of Health Science

- Representative from the Nursing Program

Undergraduate Studies Bachelors of Nursing Degree required

- ❖ Balance your academic and social life
- ❖ GPA (3.5+) – higher = better!
- ❖ ACT composite range 25+
- ❖ Community Service
 - meaningful to future career path
- ❖ Nursing Student clubs/organizations
 - National Student Nurses Association
 - Sigma Theta Tau
 - American Nurses Association
- ❖ Participate in Undergraduate Research
- ❖ Communicate routinely with your Mentor
- ❖ Consider a Part-Time Job in the Medical Field to Increase Patient Contact Hours
- ❖ Research Types of Graduate Programs
 - Master Degree Programs
 - Online/Hybrid Programs
- ❖ Make a List of Schools for Application
 - Recommend Applying to 8 Programs
- ❖ Identify Prerequisite Courses for Each Program to Ensure You Meet Requirements
- ❖ Identify Individuals for Letters of Recommendation and Ask if they will write them
 - Clinical Reference
 - Academic Reference
- ❖ Complete Mock Graduate School Interviews with your Mentor
- ❖ Arrange and Complete Program Visits
 - Goals: Get Them to Know Your Name, Speak to your Mission and Vision
- ❖ Personal Statement/Essay

- Personal & Unique
- Answers the Question Promptly and Thoughtfully

Graduate Studies Masters of Science of Nursing

- ❖ GPA (3.0 +) Bachelor of Science of Nursing
- ❖ Continue to Utilize Your Mentor
- ❖ Must complete a clinical residency while being mentored by an experienced healthcare professional in their expertise area.
- ❖ The minimum number of credits needed to complete the MSN degree varies by the specialty; it ranges from 42 to 49 credit hours.
- ❖ Identify Specialty Choices:
 - Family Practice nurse practitioner
 - Pediatrics
 - Adult-Gerontology
 - Neonatal
 - Women's Health
 - Community and Public Health
- ❖ UW-Oshkosh
- ❖ UW-Madison
- ❖ Bellin College
- ❖ UW-Eau Claire
- ❖ Online options available
 - Concordia University
 - UW-Oshkosh
 - Purdue University Global Milwaukee
- ❖ Research Residency Options
 - Contact Bellin Health to Discuss Orthopedics and/or Sports Medicine Residency Options