Open Admission (Summer or Fall 2027 start) Selection Process & Criteria:

Admission to the nursing program is different than admission to the University of Northern Colorado; there are two separate applications required.

Application to the University: www.unco.edu/admissions Use the code 'UNCnursing' to waive the application fee.

Application to the Nursing Program: https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/

***We highly recommend ALL BSN program applicants first meet with a pre-nursing advisor to ensure you have all elements of your application complete. To meet with an advisor, you must be first admitted to UNC and have a bear number. You may still apply without completing this step, but please note that if you are missing any items your application will be rejected.*

Completed applications must be submitted through NursingCAS on or before January 15th, 2027, 5pm (MT)

SCREENING CRITERIA:

- Completion of all application criteria. Please see the document "Open Admission 2027 - Instructions for applying to the BSN program" for application instructions.
    - *If any item is missing, or if instructions are not followed correctly, the application will not be considered.*

- Submission of proof of registration in all remaining prerequisite courses. ***No more than 4 of the 10 required prerequisite courses may be in progress at the time of application***. All courses must be predicted to finish by Friday, May 7th, 2027, or sooner (with a grade posted by Thursday, May 13th, 2027). **Transcripts submitted to NursingCAS and UNC must include courses in progress.**

- Grade Point Average (GPA)
    - ALL official transcripts (including transcripts from UNC) must be submitted to NursingCAS.
    - A minimum cumulative grade point average of **3.0 on the last 45 credits**, not including grades from technical courses, high school advanced placement courses, or remedial coursework. GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale.
    - A minimum cumulative grade point average of **2.75 on all completed nursing prerequisite courses**. GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale.
    - A grade of 'C-'/S+ or higher is required in each of the prerequisite courses (or course equivalent). S/U is not acceptable.
    - Course repeats/grade replacement – – if a pre-requisite course is repeated, the second grade will be used to calculate the Admission GPA. A third attempt at a course will be accepted if more than 5 years has passed between the second and third attempt. **If you are repeating a course which is in progress during application, the previous completed grade will be used for calculation.**

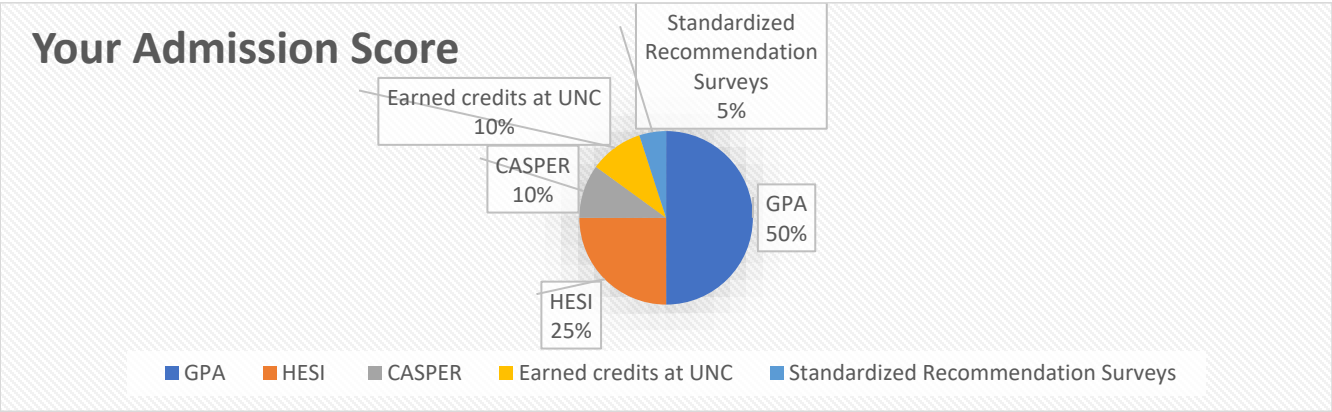
- HESI Admission Assessment Exam
    - The HESI score is generated by averaging the scores from the 4 test categories (required subcategories- Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, Basic Math Skills, Anatomy and Physiology).
        - Composite minimum score requirement (average of the 4 test categories) -
            - Pre-requisite GPA of **2.75 – 2.99, must score 80% or greater**
            - Pre-requisite GPA of **3.0 or higher, must score 70% or greater**
            - There is no minimum subcategory score.

- Demonstration of English Proficiency (if applicable).
    - If your primary language is not English, if you are an International Student, or if you did not earn a high school or college level degree in the United States you will need to demonstrate required English proficiency for the clinical nursing program. Please contact the UNC Office of Global Engagement at global@unco.edu to assist with this process. English proficiency can be demonstrated by one of the following criteria:

        - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) – minimum of 80 on the internet-based test (iBT) with a minimum score of 26 on the spoken English section.
        - IELTS (International English Language Testing System) – minimum of 6.5 total score with a minimum speaking sub score of 7.

SELECTION PROCESS:

There are many components that go into our admission criteria that help us see who you are. GPA and the HESI exam give us a glimpse of how you perform academically. The Casper assessment and the Standardized Recommendation Surveys tell of your ability to work with others, communication, flexibility, problem-solving skills, and other professional attributes you possess. The different admission criteria come together to create your "admission score":



- Admission GPA
    - Admission GPA will be calculated using the most recent 45 credit hours of coursework and GPA from all completed nursing prerequisite courses.

    - Courses/scores/grades not included in Admission GPA:

        - High School Advanced Placement (AP) scores.

        - Grades from technical courses such as CNA, EMT, etc.

        - Nursing courses from a technical school.

        - Grades from remedial coursework.

    - If you are taking prerequisite courses in Spring 2027, these courses will not be factored into the Admission GPA. *No more than 4 of the 10 prerequisite courses may be in progress during the Spring 2027 semester at the time of application.* All courses must be predicted to finish by Friday, May 7th, 2027, or sooner (with a grade posted by Thursday, May 13th, 2027).

        - Course repeats/grade replacement – if a pre-requisite course is repeated, the second grade will be used to calculate the Admission GPA. A third attempt at a course will be accepted if more than 5 years has passed between the second and third attempt.

- Courses taken during Spring 2027 semester will not be used to calculate GPA, even if they are retake courses.

- If you are admitted to the Nursing program and earn less than a grade of 'C-'/S+ in any of the remaining prerequisite courses or course equivalents during the Spring 2027 semester, your admission to the Nursing program will be rescinded.

Required prerequisite courses included in Admission GPA calculation (or transfer equivalent):

- **BIO 110**- Atoms to Cells
- **BIO 245** – Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology (must include minimum of 1 credit lab)
- **BIO 246** – Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology (must include minimum of 1 credit lab)
- **BIO 251** – Allied Health Microbiology (must be a 4-credit course, must include minimum of 1 credit lab)
- **CHEM 281** - Fundamentals of Biochemistry and Biochemistry
    - Substitutions such as general chemistry or organic chemistry will not be accepted.
- **CHEM 281L** – Fundamentals of Biochemistry and Biochemistry Lab
    - If biochemistry course does not include a lab, organic chemistry lab may be accepted dependent on course review.
- **ENG 123** – College Research Paper
- **FND 250** – Principles of Nutrition
- **NURS 326** – Pathophysiology
- **PSY 230** – Human Growth and Development
- **STAT 150** – Introduction to Statistical Analysis

    - All prerequisite courses must have been completed within ten (10) years of application. Any prerequisite courses taken over the 10-year limit (except for ENG 123, PSY 230, STAT 150) will need to be retaken to be eligible for application.

    - The following prerequisite courses - BIO 110, 245, 246, 251; CHEM 281, 281L and NURS 326 - will not be accepted if the course is delivered in a self-paced, self-directed, or an independent study format.

- Standardized Recommendation Surveys (SRS)
    - The SRS score will be averaged between the 2 recommendations.

- Casper Assessment
    - Casper uses a unique, open, video and text response format, leading to more authentic, in-the-moment responses. You can justify your reasoning, express your values, and share your individual perspectives and experiences.
    - Casper is a soft-skill assessment. Casper measures 10 competencies: collaboration, communication, empathy, equity, ethics, self-awareness, resilience, professionalism, problem solving and motivation.
    - Each test is rated by multiple independent raters, with a different rater for each scenario. The final score is an average of all raters' unique impressions, reflecting diverse perspectives on the applicant's performance. This reduces bias.
    - Casper scores will only be accepted from the current Casper exam (between May 2026 – February 2027).

- HESI Admission Assessment Exam
    - The HESI score is generated by averaging the scores from the 4 test categories (required subcategories- Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, Basic Math Skills, Anatomy and Physiology).
        - Composite minimum score requirement (average of the 4 test categories) -
            - Pre-requisite GPA of 2.75 – 2.99, must score 80% or greater
            - Pre-requisite GPA of 3.0 or higher, must score 70% or greater
            - There is no minimum subcategory score.
        - You may only submit one HESI score/transcript each admission cycle. You may submit HESI scores that were completed within the last 2 years. If you choose to retake the HESI or any section of the HESI, we will only use the most recent scores.
        - You may take the exam twice between November 23rd , 2026 and January 15th, 2027.

- UNC Earned Credits
    - The number of credits completed at UNC will be assigned points by the ULT and used in the overall admission score as outlined below.
    - 0-2 = 0 points
    - 3-5 = 1 point
    - 6-8 = 2 points
    - 9-11 = 3 points
    - 12-14 = 4 points
    - 15-17 = 5 points
    - 18-20 = 6 points
    - 21-23 = 7 points
    - 24-26 = 8 points
    - 27-29 = 9 points
    - 30 or more = 10 points

The weighting for the above admission criteria is: 50% Admission GPA; 25% HESI exam score; 10% CASPER; 10% earned credits at UNC; 5% Standardized Letters of Recommendation. An overall admission score will then be assigned to each applicant, and all the applicants will be ranked based on their score.

If you do not meet one of the above admission requirements, you may request an exception to the admission policy. The requested exception must be received before Monday, January 4th, 2027, at 5pm (MT) by BSN program coordinator Courtney Gryskiewicz at courtney.gryskiewicz@unco.edu prior to application submission. The exception must outline what screening/admission criteria you are requesting the exception for and your specific circumstance. The exception will then be reviewed and a letter approving or denying your request will be sent back to you at your Bear Email address. Exceptions requested after the above due date will not be reviewed for this application cycle.

NOTIFICATION: notification letters will be sent to applicants by Thursday, February 25th, 2027, to your Bear Email address.

If admitted into the Nursing Program:

Information about future requirements such as purchase of malpractice insurance, specific health clearance requirements, CPR certification, purchase of uniforms and ATI materials, and course information will be provided after students have indicated they plan to attend the UNC Nursing program.

- A **mandatory** meeting for all newly admitted nursing students will provide essential program information. Failure of attendance may lead to your admission being rescinded. Please reach out to courtney.gryskiewicz@unco.edu by March 1st if you cannot attend this meeting.
    - Meeting time: Thursday, March 11th, 2026 (5:30-7:30pm, zoom)
- Please note: Admission to the program will be contingent on passing a background check (see disqualifying events on our website), clear drug screening, completion of any outstanding prerequisite courses with a passing grade (C- or higher).
- Substantial onboarding processes must be completed before classes start (deadlines will be provided in the mandatory admission meeting). Estimated cost of onboarding expenses is about $250.

Contact the School of Nursing at 970-351-2293 or nursing@unco.edu if you have any questions.