Nursing

What is a closed academic program?
A closed academic program is an academic program that is not immediately accessible to Bridge students because of enrollment restrictions. Students interested in one of these academic programs must request a change-of-academic-program application from the appropriate department after enrolling at Clemson. The opportunity to change to one of these academic programs upon enrollment at Clemson cannot be guaranteed.

How competitive is it to change to nursing?
Students approved to change majors to nursing typically have 1) STAT 2300 completed and four of the five or all five science requirements completed and are enrolled in the fifth science (BIOL 2230) at the time of application, and have a 2) GPA higher than 3.0. The applicant pool may be more competitive than a 3.0, depending on the caliber of the pool of students who wish to change to nursing. There are always more change-of-academic-program applicants than there are clinical spaces available. Each year, there are typically 60 to 85 qualified applicants for approximately 25 to 35 spaces. Below is the average GPA for students approved to change to nursing:

- 2019 average Clemson GPA: 3.60
- 2018 average Clemson GPA: 3.59
- 2017 average Clemson GPA: 3.73
- 2016 average Clemson GPA: 3.63
- 2015 average Clemson GPA: 3.63
- 2014 average Clemson GPA: 3.66
- 2013 average Clemson GPA: 3.67

What are the minimum requirements a student must meet to be considered to change to nursing?
To be eligible to apply to nursing, students must, at minimum, have a 2.75 Clemson GPA and two of the five required sciences for nursing completed with a grade of C or better. Admission, however, is competitive.

How does the change-of-academic-program process work for nursing?
Applications are taken once a year in January only. Applications are available on the School of Nursing website and submitted electronically. Applications are reviewed throughout February and students are typically notified in March. This leads accepted students to begin in the nursing program the following fall. Students may apply to change to nursing a maximum of two times (excluding Admissions applications).

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year to apply to nursing?
Currently, the nursing program requires STAT 2300, CH 1010, BIOL 1030/1050 or BIOL 1100, MICR 2050 or MICR 3050, BIOL 2220, and BIOL 2230. Students should aim to complete as many of these classes as possible before applying to change to nursing. However, it is suggested that students complete only MAT 120 (equivalent to STAT 2300), CHM 110 (equivalent to Clemson’s CH 1010) and BIO 101 (equivalent to Clemson’s BIOL 1030/1050) at Tri-County Technical College and complete MICR 2050 or 3050, BIOL 2220 and 2230 at Clemson. All prerequisites for courses at Clemson will be enforced, and students who fail to complete chemistry and biology in the freshman year will not be able to enroll in appropriate science courses at Clemson to be competitive.

What courses should Bridge students take during their Bridge year?
Students should have an alternative academic program in mind. It would be best if they take classes that work for both nursing and the alternative academic program. The nursing faculty who review applications will give priority to students taking courses toward another major in addition to nursing instead of random electives.

What are some alternative academic programs for students who are not successful in changing their academic program to nursing?
Students who are not approved to change to nursing often choose one of the following programs:

- Biological sciences
- Biological sciences with an emphasis in prerehabilitation sciences
- Food science with an emphasis in nutrition and dietetics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Secondary education teaching in science or mathematics

It is best that students pursue an alternative academic program (other than humanities undeclared) before completing the Bridge program to be eligible to enroll in certain courses with restrictions at Clemson.

Continued
Are there pathways other than pursuing an undergraduate nursing degree that a student can take to become a nurse? Students may earn a nursing degree by these options:

- They may earn a four-year bachelor’s degree (any degree) and enter a second-degree nursing program with the appropriate prerequisites. Entering Clemson’s second-degree nursing program is typically as competitive as the undergraduate change-of-academic-program process. Additionally, there are many other schools that offer accelerated second-degree nursing options. Note that admissions requirements to Clemson’s second-degree nursing program are typically similar to the requirements for undergraduate students wishing to change to nursing.

- They may earn a two-year associate degree in nursing through a two-year technical or community college. Clemson also offers an RN to BS completion program.

How long will it take for Bridge students approved to change to nursing to earn their degree from Clemson? Students who are approved to change to nursing should expect to take an extra semester to complete the program if accepted in spring of the sophomore year.

What can Bridge students do during their Bridge year to make the application process easier? Students should attend MAJOR night in September, meet with Clemson nursing advisers and utilize Clemson’s Center for Career and Professional Development to select an alternative academic program in case they are not approved to change to nursing.