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 completed and excelled in the majority of the freshman and sophomore year math & science courses outlined on the change of major curriculum. These classes include: BIOL 1030/1050 or 1100, CH 1010, BIOL 2220, 2230, MICR 2050 or 3050, and STAT 2300 (students are typically enrolled in BIOL 2230 at the time of application, as this class is only offered in the Spring). Additionally, accepted students typically have a 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 30 to 50 qualified applicants for approximately 25 to 38 spaces. Below are the past average GPAs for students approved to change to nursing:

- 2021 average Clemson GPA: 3.64
- 2020 average Clemson GPA: 3.25
- 2019 average Clemson GPA: 3.60
- 2018 average Clemson GPA: 3.59

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 have a minimum Clemson GPA of 2.75 and two of the six required science/math courses required for nursing completed with a grade of C or higher. Please note that admission is competitive, and meeting minimum requirements does NOT guarantee admission.

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).

Please note that applying after sophomore year adds a significant amount of time to the graduation timeline. Students in their junior and senior years are advised to look into the Accelerated Second Degree (ASD) Nursing Track.

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year to apply to nursing?
It is advised that students complete: 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. Students should aim to complete as many of these classes as possible before applying to change to nursing. All prerequisites for courses at Clemson will be enforced, and students who fail to complete chemistry and biology in the first 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.

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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
- Food science and human nutrition
- Genetics
- A B.S. in a social science

Any Bachelor of Science program provides flexibility for students to take classes that count for both nursing and their backup major. It is advised that students pursue a degree path in which they have interest as admission to nursing is not a guarantee.

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.

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 B.S. 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 any “Are You on Track?” events, 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. They can also e-mail the academic adviser for nursing for more information.

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