



Mennonite College of Nursing
at Illinois State University

Frequently Asked Questions - BSN Program, Accelerated Option

1. How does the content of the Prelicensure Accelerated Option differ from that of the Traditional Prelicensure BSN Sequence?
 - ❖ *The Traditional Prelicensure Sequence consists of 14 courses (65 credit hours). The Accelerated Option consists of the same 14 courses with identical classroom and clinical hours. However, these hours are dispersed over 4 twelve-week sessions as opposed to 4 sixteen-week semesters.*
2. What is the scheduling difference between the Traditional Prelicensure and the Accelerated Option?
 - ❖ *The Accelerated Option begins the first week of January and finishes in December of the same calendar year. Classes will continue full-time through the summer, and upon successful completion, accelerated students will finish in one calendar year. Traditional Prelicensure students begin in either August or January and upon successful completion, will finish in May or December of the second consecutive year. The Traditional Prelicensure Sequence can be completed in 2 calendar years (or approximately 22 months, given a May graduation date).*
3. Will the Accelerated Option be offered every year?
 - ❖ *The Accelerated Option is a non-traditional program and will therefore be renewed on an annual basis. Renewal is expected to be determined approximately 16 months prior to the intended annual start date of the nursing courses.*
4. Will students in the Accelerated Option be afforded the same high quality education that the Traditional Prelicensure/BSN students receive?
 - ❖ *The classroom contact hours and clinical hours are the same for the Accelerated and Traditional Prelicensure options. Some MCN faculty teach primarily in the Accelerated option; the majority of faculty teach in both the Accelerated and Traditional Prelicensure options.*
5. When are applications accepted?
 - ❖ *Applications for both options are accepted from September 1 through January 15.*
 - ❖ *Applications will be accepted for the Accelerated Option approximately 16-12 months prior to the starting month of the program. For example, Accelerated applications for the January 2011 start date would be accepted from September 1, 2009 through January 15, 2010.*
 - ❖ *Applications for the Traditional Prelicensure Sequence will be accepted approximately 7 to 16 months prior to the start of the program. For example, applications for the Traditional Prelicensure Sequence starting in either August 2010 or January 2011 would be accepted from September 1, 2009 through January 15, 2009.*

6. How do the application requirements differ between the Accelerated and Traditional Prelicensure Options?

- ❖ *To be eligible to apply for either undergraduate option, a student must be able to complete all general education requirements and prerequisite courses prior to beginning the nursing courses. Additionally, students applying for the Accelerated Option must demonstrate successful completion of a non-nursing bachelor's degree prior to the January start date of the nursing courses. (General education requirements will have been met through bachelor's degree requirements.)*

7. What prerequisite courses must be completed before beginning the Accelerated or Traditional Prelicensure Option?

- ❖ *The prerequisite courses for the Accelerated Option are the same as those required for the Traditional Prelicensure and include the following, completed with a C or better. Although prerequisites do not need to be completed until the semester prior to beginning nursing courses, students will be asked on the application to demonstrate a plan for completion.*

Chemistry - CHE 110/112 or CHE 140

Statistics – MQM 100 or ECO/GEO/POL/PSY 138 or MAT 150 or SOC 275

General Psychology – PSY 110 or 111

Lifespan Development – PSY 213

Microbiology – BSC 160 or 260

Anatomy and Physiology 1 – BSC 181

Anatomy and Physiology 2 with lab – BSC 182

Nutrition – FCS 102

8. Where will clinical experiences take place?

- ❖ *Clinical assignments may be up to a one and one half hour drive from the Bloomington/Normal area and students are expected to have transportation. Car-pooling is encouraged.*

9. What is the cost of the Accelerated Option?

- ❖ *The cost of the Accelerated BSN Option is based on the Illinois State undergraduate tuition rate. Changes to the tuition rate for the upcoming academic year are generally posted by May of the prior academic year; thus the exact amount is not known until after the application deadline. Additional costs incurred by the students beyond basic program cost include, but are not limited to, costs associated with uniforms, books, travel, health insurance, and preadmission health requirements. NOTE: Second-bachelor's students are not eligible for many traditional sources of financial aid. Additionally, as the Accelerated Option is made possible by a special arrangement with Illinois State's Extended University, they are not eligible for a number of services across campus which are funded by General Fees; these excluded services include Student Health Services and Student Health Insurance. Some other services are available, including access to Milner Library. The academic advisor will help you determine what services are available.*

10. Will I be able to be employed while attending courses in the Accelerated Option?

- ❖ *Due to the rigorous nature of this program, students are strongly discouraged from working while completing the accelerated curriculum.*