

The Special Consideration Program for Nursing

Mercer University's Special Consideration Program (SCP) for Nursing offers first-time students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS; <https://liberalarts.mercer.edu/>) the opportunity to earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BSN) from Mercer's Georgia Baptist College of Nursing (GBCN; <http://nursing.mercer.edu/>) in four years. Participants will complete their nursing prerequisites in the CLAS in the first two years, and those who maintain eligibility for the SCP will have the security of special consideration from the GBCN BSN program upon application.

Eligibility. The Special Consideration Program is available for first-time students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) at Mercer University. Transfer students (students who have taken college courses at institutions other than Mercer's CLAS after they graduate from high school) are not eligible. Eligibility for this program cannot be attained by declining transfer credits.

To maintain SCP-Nursing eligibility, a student must have earned an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, as well as a 3.0 GPA in the Biology courses required for admission to the BSN program. The first official GPA check occurs after spring semester grades are posted for the first year.

Students whose GPAs fall below the minimum after the first year of undergraduate work lose SCP-Nursing eligibility and must declare a major to maintain eligibility for federal financial aid (Multi-Disciplinary Studies is a good choice).

Declaration of Intent. CLAS students who are interested in this program and who are eligible to participate must submit a completed "Declaration of Intent" form to the Mercer University pre-health professions advisor by November 15 of their first year at Mercer-Macon (form available on the *Pre-Nursing Track Page*). Students will indicate campus interest on the declaration form (Atlanta or Macon), but the final selection of campus will be on the application to GBCN in year 2.

Coursework and Residency Requirements. To participate in the SCP-Nursing, students must complete their pre-nursing coursework at the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, which must total at least 60 credit hours. **At least 48 credit hours must be earned "in residence" at the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences over four semesters to satisfy Special Consideration Program requirements.**

Dual enrollment credit may be accepted to fulfill certain pre-nursing requirements, though no class in which a student earned a grade below a "C" will transfer to Mercer. Similarly, AP and IB credits may be used to fulfill certain pre-nursing requirements. CLEP credit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **However, these types of credit do not count toward the 48 hours required in residence.**

Academic Performance and Progress. To retain eligibility for the SCP-Nursing program, a student **must have earned an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, as well as a 3.0 GPA in the Biology courses required for admission to the GBCN** (courses listed in **red type** on the *GBCN Prerequisite Checklist* available on the Pre-Nursing Track Page in GPS). The first official GPA check occurs after summer grades are posted following year 1. Students who retain program eligibility must maintain the minimum GPA's through the second year to gain acceptance.

To matriculate into the GBCN Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (the "pre-licensure" program), an SCP-Nursing student must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours, to include 48 hours earned in residence at Mercer and successful completion of all nursing prerequisites by the end of the spring semester of his/her second year and comply with all guidelines set forth in this document. Students may not elect to be graded on a pass/ fail or "S/U" basis in the four required BIO courses in the pre-nursing curriculum.

Specialized Pre-professional Advising. SCP-Nursing students must participate in advising events or programs presented on the Macon campus by representatives from the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). SCP-Nursing students are required to the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) and obtain a passing score (passing score varies every year; for 2026 the minimum score is 76%) before they submit their application to the GBCN. Mercer recommends that students begin preparing for that test in late summer and take the exam by mid-December, or when practice exam scores are above 85%.

Mercer-Macon students must send their TEAS score reports to “Mercer U GA CON BSN.”

Application to the GBCN. SCP-Nursing students are required to apply to the “traditional BSN” program at GBCN by January 15 of their second year. SCP students must select either the Atlanta campus or the Macon campus on the application. Acceptance to the selected campus is dependent on available seats at the time of application, so earlier application submission will increase the chances of acceptance at the preferred location.

The application is available at <https://connect.mercer.edu/apply/?sr=fed83989-89a4-4e12-a84e-0d828694fb06>, and Frequently Asked Questions are at <https://nursing.mercer.edu/admissions/frequently-asked-questions/> (including where to send transcripts).

Mercer students do not need to submit Mercer transcripts, as GBCN and the CLAS share the same records system. When students submit their applications, their applications will show “awaiting materials” if nothing is submitted, so students should send an email to nursingadmissions@mercer.edu to let them know that they are Mercer students in the SCP program so that their application processing can move forward. Alternatively, the GBCN will share a registration code for SCP-Nursing students. The application fee is waived for Mercer-Macon applicants. Students will be given a code to use to waive the fee and can ignore the “awaiting payment” notification in the application portal. SCP applicants should submit official transcripts for the TEAS from ATI directly. Processing can take up to three days. There is no fee waiver for the TEAS.

Final acceptance to the BSN program is contingent upon a holistic review of the entire application and submitted application materials. The GBCN reserves the right to interview any SCP-Nursing applicant.

Mercer Undergraduate Scholarships and Financial Considerations: Pre-nursing students are encouraged to visit <https://financialaid.mercer.edu/cost-of-attendance/nursing-undergraduate/bsn/> and <https://financialaid.mercer.edu/cost-of-attendance/residential-undergraduate/> to compare the tuition rates and costs of attendance on the two campuses.

Withdrawal from the CLAS. Students who have received their official acceptance to the GBCN should complete a “Non-Returning Notification” form through MyMercer (under the “Academics” tab) before the end of their final semester in the CLAS:

- Select Liberal Arts/ Liberal Arts & Sciences as your HOME COLLEGE.
- Indicate your LAST TERM as the final semester you will be enrolled in the CLAS.
- Under RETURNING, mark yes and the term you will matriculate to nursing school.
- For REASONS FOR LEAVING, mark “Program Transfer WITHIN Mercer”.
- Under OTHER DETAILS, type, “Finished prerequisites for nursing school and will start nursing school in fall of 202X”.