

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY- SCHOOL OF NURSING

Boise Center

Fast Track Baccalaureate Nursing Program

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Thank you for your interest in the Idaho State University Boise Center Fast Track Nursing Program. The Fast Track is an accelerated program designed for those who have previously completed a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing. Students complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and are eligible to take the RN licensure exam (NCLEX).

The Fast Track Nursing program is four (4) consecutive semesters beginning in January of one year and ending in May of the following year. The program application deadline is September 15. All applicants are notified of the results of the selection process by November 1. A maximum of twenty (20) students are accepted for each January enrollment.

The following list identifies the main components of the admission process. Each addendum provides specific information. The application process requires verification and/or **completion** of:

1. Prior Baccalaureate degree
2. Prerequisite courses – *Addendum A*
3. 3.0 minimum GPA **calculated from prerequisites 1 through 6**
4. Application/acceptance to Idaho State University – *Addendum B*
5. Test of Essential Academic Skills Exam (TEAS) – *Addendum B*
6. Background Investigation – *Addendum B*
7. Current Immunization Status – *Addendum B*
8. Physical Exam from a health care provider – *Addendum B*
9. Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification – *Addendum B*
10. Application form, \$35.00 fee, and essay to the Fast Track Program by 9/15

We look forward to the opportunity to assist you in meeting your education goals. Please review the *Addendums* and *Frequently Asked Questions* and call 208-373-1785 if you would like to schedule an advising appointment.

Addendum A

Idaho State University Boise Center Fast Track Nursing Program Pre-requisite and Co-requisite Course Requirements

Pre-Requisite Courses

	Course	ISU Title or Equivalent	Credits
1	Anatomy & Physiology I *	BIOL 301	4
2	Anatomy & Physiology II *	BIOL 302	4
3	Intro. to General Chemistry *	CHEM 101	3
4	Intro. to Organic Chemistry with lab *	CHEM 102 and 103	4
5	Intro. to Microbiology with lab *	BIOL 221 and 223	4
6	Intro. to Pathobiology *	BIOL 305	3
7	Intro. to Psychology	PSYC 101	3
8	Child Development	PSYC 225	3
9	Sociology or Anthropology	ANTH 238 or 239	3
10	Intro. to Statistics	MATH 253	3
11	Economics (Intro, Micro, or Macro)	ECON 100, 201 or 202	3

Co-Requisite Courses

Co-Requisite courses are offered as part of the curriculum during the first semester of the Fast Track Program or may be taken prior to admission.

	Course	ISU Title or Equivalent	Credits
12	Therapeutic Nutrition	NTD 340	3
13	Bioethics	PHIL 230	3
14	Essentials of Pharmacology	PSCI 315	4

All pre-requisite and co-requisite courses must be passed with a C- or better.

*A minimum GPA of 3.0 among prerequisites 1 through 6 is required for application to the Fast Track Program.

Addendum B

Idaho State University Boise Center Fast Track Nursing Program

Application to Idaho State University – Application to Idaho State University is required prior to taking the TEAS exam and applying to the Fast Track Program. Upon acceptance to ISU a student identification number is assigned that is necessary for the TEAS registration process. The student ID number is also required on the application to the nursing program. Official transcripts must be submitted to ISU. The application fee is \$40.00. Applications are available through ISU, Office of Admissions, Box 8270, Pocatello, ID 83209-8270, phone 208-282-2475 or on the web site at www.isu.edu.

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) – The TEAS exam must be completed and scores submitted by the September 15 application deadline. ISU will administer the TEAS at the Boise Center, 12301 W Explorer Drive on specific dates May through September. Photo ID, ISU student ID number, and a check made out to ISU for \$45.00 are required at the time the exam is taken. To schedule an exam date and reserve a seat, call the Fast Track Nursing Program at 208-373-1785.

Background Investigation – The ISU Public Safety Department must complete a criminal history check prior to the September 15 application deadline. Initiating the process requires physical presence with photo identification at the Fast Track Nursing Department at 12301W. Explorer Drive, Suite 102, Boise. The background investigation requires a \$45.00 check made out to ISU and an additional \$5.00 paid to the agency in Boise where fingerprinting is completed.

Current Immunization Status – Verification of current immunization status must accompany the Fast Track program application and includes the following:

- Mantoux/PPD (TB) - negative test within the year prior to application or negative chest x-ray within the 4 years prior
- MMR - second dose or positive titer
- Adult DT/Td - 3 injection series and a booster dose every 10 years
- Polio
- Varicella – year of disease or positive titer or vaccination date
- Hepatitis B – 3 dose series or at least the 1st of the 3 dose series and submit completion at a later date or positive titer

Physical Exam - A written statement from a health care provider verifying that the applicant possesses the mental and physical health to meet the requirements of being an active and capable student in the nursing program must accompany the application.

CPR Certification - Proof of current CPR certification must accompany the application. Certification can be obtained through the American Heart Association, The American Red Cross or other accredited agency.

Frequently Asked Questions

Idaho State University Boise Center Fast Track Nursing Program

Does it matter what field my current baccalaureate degree is in?

No, any Bachelor's degree from an accredited school is acceptable.

Do the pre-requisite courses need to be taken at ISU?

No, the courses can be taken and credits transferred from other accredited colleges/universities.

How do I determine if the classes I have already taken are equivalent to the prerequisite requirements of the Fast Track Program?

Make an appointment with an advisor by calling 208-373-1785. Advising appointments can be completed in person or over the phone. Unofficial transcripts can be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed and evaluated by an advisor to help you determine what, if any, courses you need to take to meet the prerequisites.

You may be required to petition the ISU School of Nursing for consideration of some transfer credits. Petitions are often required for courses with a title that is different than the ISU course title specified in the prerequisite list, occasionally required for out-of-state credits, and necessary if you have a combination of two or more courses that you believe meets one of the prerequisite courses.

How does the petition process work?

The petition form is available at www.isu.edu/nursing or from the Fast Track office. The form simply requires a brief statement such as "*I would like to substitute course number and title taken at _____ University for the ISU Nursing Fast Track prerequisite course number and title.*" Attach a course description and/or preferably a syllabus from the course(s) you have completed that are referenced in the petition form. Return the completed petition and attachment(s) to the ISU Fast Track Nursing Program, 12301 W. Explorer Drive Suite 102, Boise, ID 83713. You will be notified of the results of the review process within approximately one month.

When should my transcripts be evaluated?

You should talk to an advisor as soon as you become interested in the program. It is recommended that your transcripts be reviewed by June of the year you intend to apply to ensure that petitions can be processed if necessary.

Is an appointment with an advisor required?

No, but it is highly recommended. Talking with an advisor to review your prior course work and evaluate your status regarding meeting the prerequisite course requirements eliminates uncertainties on your part.

What do I need to know about the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)?

The computerized exam includes four parts: Reading Comprehension, English Language Usage, Science, and Math. The questions are based on grade 10 to 12 material. A study guide is available for approximately \$30.00 at <http://www.atitesting.com> or 1-800-

667-7531. The exam takes approximately 2 hours and your score is available upon completion. Make two copies of your score – one for your files and one to attach to your application.

A check to ISU for \$45.00, photo ID, and ISU student ID number are required at the time the exam is taken at the ISU Boise Center. ISU will administer the test once monthly from May through September at the Boise Center. Call 208-373-1785 to schedule your exam.

What factors are considered for admission to the Fast Track Nursing Program?

The 3 main factors include:

1. Grade point average among prerequisites 1 through 6.
2. Score on the TEAS
3. Essay

How competitive is the admission process?

The process is highly competitive. Typically, there are over 40 qualified applicants for the 20 seats available in the program. The mean GPA among students admitted to the Fast Track in January 2006 was 3.55 and the TEAS scores were generally above 90%. Additionally, a thoughtfully written essay can positively influence the admission decision. All three factors are important and all are considered for admission.

What does the essay require?

A short essay of approximately 250 words is typically required. The specific topic and requirements for the essay are described in the application forms.

Where and when can I get an application?

The application will be available by June 1 at www.isu.edu/nursing or from the ISU Boise Center Fast Track Nursing Program office.

How much does the program cost?

ISU full-time tuition for '05-'06 is \$2,000 per semester. Books and supplies are approximately \$300-\$500 each semester. Student health insurance is \$390 per semester; a waiver is available with documentation of other health insurance. There is a \$150.00 lab fee for each course that includes a clinical, practicum component.