

ROSEMAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:

UNDERSTANDING THE NURSING SCHOOL WAITLIST

Your questions about waitlists answered



WHO DOES AND DOES NOT HAVE A WAITLIST

These days, it's harder to find a nursing school that doesn't have a waitlist than it is to find a nursing school that does. With the nursing shortage looming over the country, nursing schools with a limited capacity are struggling to produce registered nurses. These schools simply don't have enough seats or instructors for everyone. Along with physical capacity, a lack of clinical placement opportunities severely hinders schools' abilities to add students.

There are more than 150 nursing schools in California, Nevada, and Utah. Out of those, only 10 offer an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and from that short list, only three don't have a waitlist.

Roseman University's locations in Las Vegas, Nevada and the Salt Lake Valley, Utah are two of the three schools without a waitlist that offer an accelerated BSN program. Roseman University is the only university in the tri-state area that offers flexibility through online coursework.



WHICH SCHOOLS WILL COMMONLY HAVE WAITLISTS

You will typically find a nursing school waitlist when one or both of these conditions exist:

- 1. The surrounding region has an inherently high demand for nurses.** In California, with a growing population, and therefore an increasing need for healthcare professionals, there is great demand for nurses. Unsurprisingly, California also has one of the longest waits for nursing programs of any US state.
- 2. Schools have limits on enrollment.** Some schools are subject to rules imposed by accrediting bodies or federal regulatory bodies that place limits on the number of students they can admit.

Neither of these reasons reflect on the credibility or reputation of the accelerated nursing program. Regardless of whether or not your program has a waitlist, you should always pay close attention to accreditation, NCLEX pass rates, and placement rates. These are the best indicators of a quality program.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE ON A WAITLIST?

If you're looking into going back to school to become a nurse, by now you are very familiar with the concept of nursing school waitlists. You have probably read personal accounts from other prospective nursing students, or you might even be currently sitting on a waitlist. Nursing school waitlists are frustrating.

What is the Wait Time?

Depending on the school and program, the wait could be just a few months, or it could be a year or more. If you find yourself on a waitlist, the first thing you should do is figure out how long your wait is. Are you ok with waiting a few months? What about years?

What You Can Do While You Wait

- 1. Write a letter to your nursing school's admissions office.** Don't wait in silence. Keep your name in front of them and let them know how important this is to you.
- 2. Continue the admissions process.** If you are still taking prerequisites, continue taking them. Students on a waitlist often won't find out if they've made it into the program until a few weeks prior to the start date. So if you're on a waitlist, keep working towards your preferred start date.
- 3. Look into other options.** If you find yourself on a waitlist, you should think about coming up with a plan B. Know what else is out there and research your options.

WHEN TO LOOK FOR OTHER OPTIONS

Many people have a personal line in the sand that marks when they don't want to wait any longer. For some students, waiting is not an affordable option. They may need to keep moving toward their goal of becoming a nurse because they have a family to support. If you find yourself on a waitlist and know approximately how long you will have to wait, consider carefully if waiting is a feasible option for you.

When You Can't Afford to Wait

There are a lot of reasons being stuck for an extended period of time on a nursing school waitlist isn't an affordable option. For example, let's say you are currently going to school part time to complete your prerequisites with a federal student loan. If you complete your prerequisites before you get started on your accelerated BSN program and your student status drops below part time, you will be required to start making payments on that loan. This can be an unexpected and unplanned financial burden, and it makes waiting an unaffordable option.

If the above scenario doesn't apply to you, it's still important to consider the return on your financial investment. Currently, the average annual salary of someone with a bachelor's degree in California is \$52,000. However, the average annual salary of a registered nurse in California is \$90,000, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). This \$38,000 difference is what you could be losing every year that you have to sit on a nursing school waitlist.

WHY DOESN'T ROSEMAN HAVE A WAIT LIST?



Roseman University doesn't have a waitlist for its Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in either Nevada or Utah because both programs have three start dates a year, in February, July, and October. With the ability to start new cohorts three times per year in two different cities, Roseman has enough seats and instructors to accommodate all nursing students and bypass a waitlist.

If you are stuck on a waitlist and want to learn more about your nursing school options, contact an admissions advisor today at 866.892.2928.