

This is a unique access route into BSc Hons in General Nursing with Atlantic Technological University across three ETB campuses in the West, North West region aimed at widening participation to communities and individuals who would not traditionally consider third-level education as option.

This course is designed to give applicants the academic skills and competence to succeed at undergraduate level, the confidence to progress into a professional programme and the opportunity to undertake a rewarding career in nursing.

This tertiary education programme aims to increase access to degree level education in several ways including increasing the number of locations regionally that students can begin their studies, enhancing flexibility through providing a number of programme paths, widening access through more flexible entry requirements which take account of the socio-economic and other barriers faced by eligible participants.

This innovative programme is one of the first of its kind to give the opportunity to learners to start their preparation for the General Nursing degree programme in the FE sector leading to direct access to the third level college. Students will spend the first year of this programme in their local ETB (Education and Training Board) and then will have the choice of three different locations (ATU Castlebar, ATU St Angela's, Sligo or ATU Donegal) to undertake their four year Nursing programme.

The programmes offered are detailed in the links below:

- BSc (Hons) in General Nursing at St Angela's College Sligo: [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\) in General Nursing - St Angela's \(stangelas.ie\)](https://www.stangelas.ie)
- BSc (Hons) in General Nursing at ATU Letterkenny [Course Details \(lyit.ie\)](https://www.lyit.ie)
- BSc (Hons) in General Nursing at ATU Mayo [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\) in General Nursing | ATU - Atlantic Technological University \(gmit.ie\)](https://www.gmit.ie)

A four-year degree program in general nursing, typically known as a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nursing, is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become Registered General Nurses (RGNs) and enter the professional practice of nursing through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. The curriculum is comprehensive, combining theoretical education with practice based teaching and clinical experiences. While specific courses and program structures may vary between each of the ATU sites, here are some common components you can expect to find on the program:

1. **Basic Sciences:** The program often begins with foundational courses in the basic sciences, such as anatomy, physiology, microbiology. These courses provide a solid understanding of the human body and its functions.
2. **Nursing Theory and Practice:** Students learn the theoretical foundations of nursing, including concepts like nursing ethics, health assessment, pharmacology, and pathophysiology. They also study nursing processes, critical thinking, and decision-making skills essential for providing patient care.

3. **Clinical Skills:** All of the programs include hands-on training in various clinical skills. Students learn fundamental nursing procedures, such as taking vital signs, administering medications, wound care, and conducting patient assessments. They also gain proficiency in using specialised equipment and technologies.
4. **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention:** Health promotion focus on educating individuals, families, and communities about maintaining and improving their health. Students learn strategies for health education, health promotion, and disease prevention in diverse populations.
5. **Medical-Surgical Nursing:** This area covers the care of patients with acute and chronic illnesses. Students learn about common medical conditions, surgical interventions, and post-operative care. They develop skills in managing patient care, administering medications, monitoring vital signs, and recognizing complications.
6. **Specialist areas include but not limited to paediatrics, obstetrics and mental health:** Students study the unique healthcare needs of infants, children, and adolescents. They learn about paediatric growth and development, common paediatric illnesses, and nursing care for paediatric patients. Obstetrics focuses on providing care to women during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum periods. In mental health the area of study focuses on understanding mental health conditions and providing care for individuals. Students learn therapeutic communication techniques, psychopharmacology, and interventions for promoting mental well-being. With a focus on recovery.
7. **Community and Public Health Nursing:** this area of nursing explores healthcare in broader populations and community settings. Students learn about health promotion, disease prevention, and providing care in community clinics, care in the home, and public health agencies.
8. **Leadership and Management:** the programme will include an introduction on nursing leadership and management. Students learn about healthcare systems, healthcare policy, healthcare quality improvement, and leadership skills required to manage and coordinate patient care.
9. **Research and Evidence-Based Practice:** Students are introduced to the research process and learn to critically appraise nursing research. They understand the importance of evidence-based practice in nursing, using research findings to inform their clinical decision-making.

In addition to classroom lectures and laboratory sessions, the programs include supervised clinical rotations in various healthcare settings. These clinical experiences provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills in real-world healthcare environments under the guidance of experienced nurses (preceptors).

Upon completion of the program and meeting the necessary requirements, graduates are eligible to enter the nursing register maintained by the nursing and midwifery board of Ireland to become Registered General Nurses and begin their careers in various healthcare

settings, including hospitals, clinics, community health centres, and other healthcare facilities, as well as opportunities to travel and work internationally. The programmes at Atlantic Technological University prepare students for global nursing. It's truly a fantastic career choice, and this course will prepare you for a fulfilling future.