

Nursing School Supply List

Essential Items for Nursing Students

This comprehensive supply list covers everything you'll need for nursing school. Start with the essentials and add optional items as needed. Focus on quality over quantity for items you'll use daily.

Essential Supplies

Clinical Tools

Stethoscope	Quality matters. Littmann Classic III or Cardiology IV recommended. Budget option: ADC or MDF.
Penlight	Get one with pupil gauge. Keep a backup - they disappear easily.
Watch with Second Hand	Analog, digital, or smartwatch (Apple Watch, Android equivalent). Must be cleanable and waterproof.

Uniform & Accessories

Scrubs	3-4 sets minimum. Check school requirements for colors. Choose comfortable, breathable fabric.
Clinical Shoes	Closed-toe, non-slip, comfortable for 12-hour shifts. Break them in before clinicals.
Compression Socks	Prevent leg fatigue and swelling. Invest in quality pairs.
Name Badge Holder	Retractable clip style. Keep your ID accessible and professional.

Study & Organization

Nursing Drug Guide	Updated annually. Davis or Mosby recommended. Mobile app versions available.
Medical Dictionary	Taber's or Mosby's. Essential for understanding terminology.
Small Notebook	Pocket-sized for clinical notes and patient information. Keep it HIPAA-compliant.
Highlighters & Pens	Multiple colors for color-coding notes. Black pens for documentation.

Tech & Essentials

Laptop or Tablet	For care plans, research, and online exams. Ensure it meets school requirements.
Parking Strategy	Scout parking spots early or arrange rideshares with classmates. Hospitals often reserve parking for employees only.

Additional Helpful Items

Reference Materials

Lab Values Pocket Guide	Quick reference for normal ranges. Laminated cards work well.
EKG/ECG Interpretation Guide	Pocket guide for rhythm recognition and interpretation.

Optional Clinical Tools

Blood Pressure Cuff	Aneroid sphygmomanometer if not provided. Useful for practice and home.
Pulse Oximeter	Portable fingertip model for clinical assessments.
Reflex Hammer	For neurological assessments. Taylor or Buck style.

Optional Convenience Items

- Small backpack or tote bag for clinical supplies
- Phone charger and portable battery pack
- Energy bars or healthy snacks for clinical breaks
- Planner or digital calendar for time management
- Comfortable shoes for campus (separate from clinical shoes)
- Insulated lunch bag for long clinical days
- Personal hand cream (hospitals are dry)
- Small hand sanitizer for your pocket
- Noise-canceling headphones for studying
- Water bottle with time markers for hydration tracking

Money-Saving Tips

- Split costs with classmates for optional reference materials and pocket guides.
- Wait until you actually need optional items before buying them.

- Check if your school provides any supplies or tool kits at orientation.
- Look for student discounts at medical supply stores and online retailers.
- Consider gently used stethoscopes and equipment from graduating students.