



University of Bridgeport School of Nursing RN to BSN Completion Program Guide

Welcome to the University of Bridgeport, School of Nursing, RN to BSN Completion Program. Our goal is to assist you in completing the program at your pace while enjoying small online class sizes and personalized attention with academic advising and program success.

We offer 7-week courses to support busy, practicing nurses to complete the program expeditiously while having access to experienced, energetic nursing faculty. The curriculum is designed to facilitate your transition to a professional nurse, using a learner-centered environment, enhancing skills to practice, and meet the professional standards of the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice. It is designed to be flexible with multiple entry points of admission.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

*Linda Wagner, EdD, MSN, RN
Director, School of Nursing*

Overview of the RN to BSN Degree in Nursing

The RN to BSN applicant must complete an application for admission and provide all official transcripts from all college/university/diploma programs attended. Students may transfer up to 90 credits of basic nursing and general education credits from accredited two- and four- year colleges or accredited institutions; a cumulative 2.50 GPA in this coursework is required to be accepted into the program.

The length of time to complete the BSN program is contingent on the number of transferred credits accepted and the number of general education courses that need to be completed. The 28 credits of upper level RN to BSN program courses and an elective were designed so they can be completed in one calendar year plus one summer; students may take two online courses per 7-week session, once any pre-requisite courses are completed. If a student is working full-time this may be reduced to one course per term. A minimum of one course per semester is required to stay active in the program. The pace of program completion is individual and is determined by the student. The BSN degree program should be completed within 7 years of matriculation.

Courses taken at other institutions of higher learning will be evaluated for transfer credit on an individual basis. Generally, academic credits taken at an accredited community college or university are accepted at the University of Bridgeport if a grade of "C" or higher is earned. Required general education courses satisfy the University of Bridgeport's focus areas of skills, heritage, and seminars and are designed to provide a universal and diverse foundation for study at the baccalaureate level. Make sure that you check with your adviser and the catalog to be sure that the course you are taking meets the requirements needed in the heritage or fine arts section.

*The nursing program information is contained on this and associated web pages:
<http://online.bridgeport.edu/degrees/bachelor-rn-to-bsn/>*

Health Requirements

RN to BSN students must complete a Health Form (nursing), Immunizations Form, Background and Drug Test prior to enrolling in NURS 303. The Health Form with Immunizations, TB and Hepatitis can be accessed from Student Health Services website and should be submitted to www.bridgeport.edu/life/student-services/health-services/, studenthealth@bridgeport.edu. Please contact sewers@bridgeport.edu for information regarding background checks and drug testing.

Tuition and Fees and Other Expenses

- Tuition: *\$345.00 per credit **Tuition amounts subject to change.*
- Program Fee Per Semester: *Full-Time \$330, Part-Time \$160
- Tuition Deposit: \$100 (*one-time fee, nonrefundable and applied to tuition*)
- Shadow Health Digital Clinical Experience: \$99.00 (NURS 302: Health Assessment Course) **Cost subject to change.*
- Graduation Fee: \$150
- CLN Background Check \$65.00
- CLN Drug Test \$65.00

Financial Aid is available for those students enrolled in the program. Your eligibility is determined by your financial situation, prior credits earned, and you must be enrolled in at least **6 credits per semester**. Please complete FAFSA applications early (UB school code is #001416) and contact financial aid office to determine eligibility (203) 576-4568. Consult your adviser to inquire about any scholarships available. You may also check online at www.bridgeport.edu/finaid/ for any scholarships for which you may be eligible.

Instructional Format

The RN to BSN program is offered in an online format. The curriculum provides nine nursing courses online. The program is available to the working professional 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The online courses have weekly assignments and students are required to participate in course activities. The online courses are asynchronous and ideal for students with busy schedules.

The university general education courses may run for 7-weeks, 8-weeks or over the full 15-week semester.

MATH203: Statistics is an online 15-week course.

Technical Requirements

- Windows PC or Macintosh computer with current operating system
- Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint PC or equivalent application to Microsoft Office
- Word processor, printer
- Reliable broadband Internet access
- Proficiency with E-mail, word processing, PowerPoint, and uploading documents
- Web camera, microphone, and speakers (built in or USB headset with microphone)
- For Shadow Health: <https://shadow.desk.com/customer/portal/articles/963290-dce-recommended-system-specifications> (Links to an external site.)

You must own or have access to a computer with reliable Internet connection. The RN student should be comfortable with using e-mail, sending and receiving attachments, web browsing, and participating in shared discussions.

All new students receive an online orientation to Canvas prior to beginning the program. During the orientation, students are given instructions on how to navigate the course management system, strategies for being a successful online student, and access to other University resources including the Wahlstrom Library's electronic databases. The orientation to Canvas begins with a link when a student registers for their first course.

The RN to BSN online faculty are practicing professional nurse educators who will facilitate your learning in a dynamic, interactive educational environment. Rigorous expectations are designed to foster critical thinking, problem solving, and development of the role of the BSN prepared nurse in the online format while integrating the School of Nursing core values of caring, excellence, integrity, and diversity.

Technical assistance, please email the helpdesk@bridgeport.edu or visit the MYUB webpage and click on “Tech Support”.

Curriculum and Program Requirements

The RN to BSN program offers the RN student the opportunity to earn the BSN degree in a reasonable time frame without repetition of learning in an environment that acknowledges the knowledge, skills, and abilities the RN brings to the learning environment. The curriculum helps the RN to enhance the role of the professional nurse for practice in today’s complex health care environment.

Courses can be taken on a rolling admission basis except for the following:

- NURS 301: *Nursing Theory and Evidence-based Practice*. It requires a pre-requisite, MATH203 Statistics
- NURS 310: *Global & Population Health* follows NURS 303.

The RN to BSN curriculum is designed to integrate a foundation in the liberal arts and nursing courses that expand the knowledge base of basic nursing practice beyond the original nursing pre-licensure program. The curriculum provides the opportunity for professional growth and development in critical thinking, analysis, utilization of evidence-based practice, and communication within the inter-professional practice in a variety of health care settings.

Supplementing your course schedule with any needed general education or elective courses is dependent on how many and what additional courses you need. **Matriculated** students are expected to take the courses for their degree at the University of Bridgeport. Approval must be obtained from the Director of the School of Nursing for off-campus study once a student has matriculated. **The last 30 credits of the program must be completed at the University.**

CLEP exams are accepted at the University of Bridgeport but do not count towards the 30-credit residency requirement, nor are they included in the computation of quality point ratio. CLEP exams must be completed prior to completing the last 30 credits of your degree. Information on the subject matter and testing procedure are available in the Office of Continuing and Profession Studies.

Recommended order for course selection:

- First Courses:** NURS301, NURS302, NURS304
- Middle Courses:** NURS303, NURS310, NURS305
- Final Courses:** NURS306, NURS307, NURS308*Final Course

Sample (Schedule)
RN to BSN Course Sequence for Full-Time Study

<u>First Semester</u>		<u>Second Semester</u>	
Term 1		Term 1	
NURS 302 Health Assessment	3	NURS 303 Community Health	3
NURS 304 Professional Seminar in Nursing	3	NURS 306 Quality, Safety & Health Policy	3
Term 2		Term 2	
NURS 305 Leadership & Management	4	NURS 307 Nursing & Healthcare Informatics	3
NURS 301 Nursing Theory and Evidence-Based Practice	3	NURS 310 Population and Global Health	3
Total	13cr	Total	12cr
		<u>Summer Term</u>	
		*NURS 308 Nursing Capstone II	3
		Elective (If needed)	

Course Descriptions

NURS 301 Nursing Theory & Evidence-Based Practice (Pre-Requisite Statistics)

This course is designed to introduce the RN student to the conceptual, philosophical, scientific, and ethical bases for professional nursing practice. The relationship among theory, research, and evidence-based practice is explored and applied to real life practice situations. The role of the nurse in support of this theory, research, and evidence-based practice is addressed through a theoretical paper, research critiques, and discussion of evidence-based care in selected scenarios. *3 Credits*

NURS 302 Health Assessment

The focus of this course is to provide the essential elements of health assessment relevant to the role of the BSN graduate. Skills and tools for holistic health assessment are provided that facilitate the implementation of safe, quality nursing care across the lifespan. *3 Credits*

NURS 303 Community Health

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore concepts related to aggregates, epidemiology, global health, bioterrorism, and public health principles. *3 credits*

NURS 304 Professional Seminar

A seminar course focusing on issues pertinent to professional nursing practice. This course provides an opportunity for the RN student to complete the synthesis to the BSN role prior to program completion while exploring current trends that impact the practice of professional nursing. *3 Credits*

NURS 305 Leadership and Management in Nursing

Introduces the RN student to organizational theory, management, the structure of nursing care delivery systems, and components of leadership behavior. This course focuses on the role of the nurse as both a formal and informal leader in multiple roles of organizing, teaching, decision making, evaluating, and managing conflict. *3 Credits*

NURS 306 Quality, Safety/Health Policy

This course examines health care policy and politics as it relates to the quality and safety of nursing practice. Historical, ethical, political, and economic factors are discussed and the nurse's responsibility and role in health care policy are explored. A project facilitates application of principles addressed in the course. *3 Credits*

NURS 307 Nursing & Healthcare Informatics

The focus of this course is to introduce the principles of health care informatics, communication networks, and health care technology in the assessment, delivery, and evaluation of quality nursing care in a variety of settings. Ethical and legal considerations are integrated into the application of technological best practice to care. *3 Credits*

NURS 308 Capstone II

This seminar style course is designed to provide an opportunity for synthesis of learning experiences from past and current learning to promote professional practice emphasizing principles of lifelong learning and caring practices. Collaboration with other health care providers to improve evidence-based outcomes of care for individuals, families, and communities is emphasized. The application of these concepts is demonstrated through the development of a strategic change project that reflects successful completion of individual goals and program learning outcomes. *3 Credits*

NURS 310 Population and Global Health (Pre-Requisite NURS 303)

This course is for RN's and focuses on the application of community and population health. Students apply concepts of the nursing process to a selected aggregate population through completion of a community assessment project demonstrating successful completion of practice experiences. A global health experience may be used to meet completion of this requirement. (*3 Credits, 35 hr. practice experience*).

Program Advising and Registration

Once students are accepted into the UBSN RN to BSN program, they will be assigned an online professional studies adviser. This adviser will complete a preliminary plan of study outlining transfer credits and remaining required courses and assist you through the onboarding process including first time course registration.

Once a student is registered for their first course, the professional studies adviser will continue to assist selecting courses and registering each semester. You may contact that person at any time for course planning, or academic advising. Make sure you contact your adviser prior to registering for any remaining courses to make sure that the course meets the requirements in your program plan. Registration for fall and spring occurs during the academic calendar and students will be notified of upcoming advising and registration dates. Try to contact your adviser during these times so that you can get into the courses you need. Online courses may fill up quickly. Check the course schedule listing online as posted.

Skip a Semester- If you need to skip a semester due to personal or financial reasons, you must fill out a **Leave of Absence** form. Please email the completed form to the *Program Coordinator*. You may take a leave of absence for up to 1 year without having to reapply to the program.

Students can apply for graduation by going to the MyUB web page. Students must obtain 120 credits required for their BSN by the end of spring semester to be eligible to walk in Spring Commencement.

Program expectations

Students in the RN to BSN program are expected to achieve a grade of C+ or better in their nursing courses. A student who fails a nursing course may repeat that course and the second grade replaces the first grade for the computation of the QPA. Both course grades will remain on the official transcript. An individual nursing course may be repeated only once. A second failed attempt (below a grade of 77) will result in dismissal from the nursing program. Throughout the nursing program, a student may repeat no more than two separate nursing courses. All math and science courses must achieve a C+ (2.33 or 77) for progression. RN to BSN students must maintain a cumulative nursing QPA of 2.33 (C+) in order to graduate.

Grade	Points	QPA
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	75-76	2.00
C-	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	0.67
F	<60	0.00

Additional Resources

Student Accessibility Services (203) 576-4454 titleix@bridgeport.edu
Academic Resource Center (203) 576-4290 or online tutoring www.etutoring.org
IT support 1-855-333-8248

The School of Nursing and University of Bridgeport policies can be accessed through the University of Bridgeport School of Nursing (UBSN) Student Handbook and the Key to UB, University of Bridgeport Student Handbook.

Textbooks may be ordered through the online bookstore by going to <http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/>. Order your textbooks early, log in to check for announcements, and plan time every week to complete your coursework. Since courses are seven weeks long, the time will go by very quickly.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I am a current University of Bridgeport (UB) student am I eligible for this program?

No, this program is designed for those students who hold a current unencumbered registered nurse license and have graduated from a diploma or associate's degree nursing program. Students currently at UB must review the pre-nursing curriculum guidelines for recommended course selection.

Can I start taking courses while still working on my diploma or Associate Degree in Nursing?

If you have graduated from a diploma or associate's degree nursing program and are waiting to take or receive your NCLEX results, you may apply to the University but will be granted "conditional" acceptance until your NCLEX-RN pass results are known. You may only take general education courses until such time as you are waiting for approval of your nursing license.

Can I pursue my degree on a part-time basis while working as a Registered Nurse (RN)?

Yes, many nurses work full-time or have been out of school for an extended period of time. All nursing courses are offered over 7-weeks, other core courses or pre-requisites can be 8 or 15 weeks and you make take 1 or 2 courses each term. You may also elect to complete the program at a faster pace and may take up to 4 courses/semester for full-time study.

Is there an application deadline?

The University of Bridgeport admits on a rolling admission basis. You may be admitted to the RN to BSN program at 6 different start times per year: May, July, August, October, January, or March. If you are accepted but need to defer your start date, please contact admissions prior to registering for courses.

How long will it take me to complete my BSN?

It will depend upon the number of general education courses you are transferring. You may transfer in up to 90 credits from an accredited institution. It will also depend on how many courses you take per semester. It is possible to complete the program in one academic year plus a summer semester.

Can I take courses at a community college while enrolled in your program?

Once matriculated (first course completed) at the University of Bridgeport, all remaining courses must be completed at UB. The last 30 credits of your degree must be completed at the University. Permission to take a general education course at other institutions for transfer credit, will only be approved for valid reasons by the Dean of Health Sciences, and only if it is not part of the final 30 credits.

What happens if I need to take a semester off?

We recognize that as adult learners who may also be working full-time, sometimes our students need to take a leave for a variety of reasons. You are permitted to request a leave of absence and work with the Program Coordinator to apply for a leave of absence. You may request a leave for up to one year without having to reapply to the program. It is intended that the RN to BSN program be completed within 7 years of matriculation.

Is there a clinical component to this program?

Within the RN to BSN program there are 3 courses that include activities that require you to be engaged in a variety of assignments away from the computer at sites convenient to your geographic location. NURS 310 is a community practice experience that requires 35 hours towards completion of a community project. All RN to BSN programs must provide practice experiences to achieve baccalaureate knowledge. These practice experiences enhance students' ability to meet course objectives through a variety of direct and indirect care experiences. International learning experiences are available.

Is your program accredited?

The baccalaureate degree in nursing program at The University of Bridgeport is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, Northwest Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20001

Admissions Information

Please use this checklist to help guide you through the application process. When you can check off each item, you are ready to complete your application. Once all materials have been received by Admissions, your application will be ready for review. Please allow 2-to-4 weeks for review and issuance of your decision.

Required Application Materials Checklist

- Completed University of Bridgeport Application**
**Please note if you had a different last name on any previous school records.*
- \$25.00 Non-refundable Application Fee**
- Official Transcripts from ALL Colleges/Universities Previously Attended**
- Current, unencumbered registered nurse license in the state of residence**

Additional Qualifications for Admission and Enrollment

- Diploma or associate degree earned at a state board of nursing approved program with national nursing accreditation.
- Unencumbered RN License
- Minimum grade of C in all science and nursing courses in the basic nursing program.
- Minimum grade of C in all general education and pre-requisite courses
- Overall cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher on a 4.0 scale

All Documents Should Be Mailed To:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions University
of Bridgeport
126 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604



RN to BSN Online Degree Completion Program

Name:	Student ID#:
Start Semester/Year:	Date Prepared:

UNIVERSITY CORE			
SUBJECT	COURSE	SCH	TERM/TR
WRITING	ENGL 101 Composition	3	
FYS	MCOM 110 Public Speaking	3	
MATH**	MATH 103 or higher	3	
NATURAL SCIENCES**	BIOL 113 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	
	BIOL 114 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	
HUMANITIES	Any HUM*	3	
	Any HUM*	3	
SOCIAL SCIENCE	SOC 101 Sociology	3	
	PSYC Child / Lifespan	3	
FINE ARTS	Any FA Course	3	
SEMINAR	NURS 308 Capstone II	X	
Subtotal Credit Hrs			
Total Required Core Credit Hrs		32	
UPPER LEVEL BSN REQUIREMENTS (27cr)			
	NURS 301 Nursing Theory & Evidence-Based Practice**	3	
	NURS 302 Health Assessment **	3	
	NURS 303 Community Health**	3	
	NURS 304 Professional Seminar in Nursing**	3	
	NURS 305 Leadership & Management**	3	
	NURS 306 Quality, Safety & Health Policy**	3	
	NURS 307 Nursing & Health Care Informatics**	3	
	NURS 308 Capstone II**	3	
	NURS 310 Population and Global Health**	3	
Subtotal Credit Hrs			
Required Upper Level BSN Credit Hrs		27	
NOTE: *Must be a different course discipline (ENGL, HIST, PHIL, WREL).			
NOTE: ** These courses require a C+ or better			
<p>GPA Requirements: You are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 for admission into the program. Transfer credits accepted have no effect on your Quality Point Ratio (QPR) while you are in attendance at UB. These credits apply only toward meeting the graduation requirement. You are required to maintain a 2.33 QPR while in attendance at the University of Bridgeport to meet the graduation requirement. You are cautioned not to register for courses that have been transferred to the University of Bridgeport, as you will forfeit the grades and credits earned.</p> <p>Graduation Honors: A minimum of 60 credits must be completed at the University of Bridgeport to qualify for awards of cum laude (minimum QPR of 3.4) or magna cum laude (minimum QPR of 3.6) or summa cum laude (minimum QPR of 3.8 or higher).</p> <p>Note: This RN to BSN Completion Program Plan of Study may be used for general advisement purposes during the admission process. Any review completed using this form is unofficial in nature unless signed by all parties.</p>			
Rev. 7/17/2020			

PROGRAM / TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS			
COURSE	SCH	TERM/TR	
BIOL 106 Microbiology**	4		
PSYC 103 General Psychology	3		
MATH 203 Elementary Statistics**	3		
Basic Nursing – Block Transfer	34		
Subtotal Program / Transfer Credit Hrs			
Total Required Program / Transfer Credit Hrs		44	
GENERAL ELECTIVES			
1. **CHEM 113 Introductory Chemistry/ Elective	4/3		
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
Subtotal General Elective Credit Hrs			
Total Required General Elective Credit Hrs		17	
SUMMARY OF CREDITS			
Total CLEP & CLWEP Credits Accepted:			
Total Transfer Credits Accepted:			
Total UB Credits Completed:			
Total UB Credits Needed:			
Total Credits Required for Graduation:		120	
<p><i>I understand as a University of Bridgeport degree candidate, I assume final responsibility for meeting all the degree/graduation requirements.</i></p>			
Student's Signature		Date	
Academic Advisor's Signature		Date	
Chair/Dean's Signature		Date	