

CSU, Chico
School of Nursing

RN-BSN Program
Description

2009-2010

California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0200
530-898-5891
www.csuchico.edu/nurs



Thank you for thinking of CSU, Chico, as a way to complete your Bachelor of Science in Nursing. CSU, Chico School of Nursing's mission is to increase the number of baccalaureate prepared nurses in our northern service area to meet the healthcare needs of the region. California has a critical shortage of nurses prepared at the appropriate levels to meet the state's health care needs. To help meet this mandate, the School of Nursing has developed online formats for both the RN to BSN and MSN programs.

The RN-BSN program, which is primarily internet based, accentuates flexibility and convenience for the working nurse, including nurses in distant communities. Thus, the program can reach the most distant areas of our rural region, and meet the needs of nurses who have seven-day-a-week, around-the-clock, work schedules.

All the major theory courses required for the RN-BSN are offered via online delivery (using WEB Course Tools—Blackboard/Vista). This means that an RN with a fairly new computer and internet access can meet most course requirements from the comfort of his or her own home, yet remain connected with instructor and classmates. The online format provides maximum flexibility to the RN, and eliminates much of the on-campus time required, and the travel that entails. Although some courses do require attendance on campus, this does not usually exceed one to two days each semester. Two courses that have practicum requirements are designed for the nurse to complete by working with preceptors in the nurse's home area.

The program typically takes about 5 semesters to complete (part-time) although it may take more or less time depending on how many prerequisites and general education courses you need to take. You can complete any pre-requisites you still have left to take, along with your CSU, Chico nursing courses.

Additional information about CSU, Chico's RN-BSN program can be found at:
<http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/RNBSN/advising/layout.shtml>

WHAT DOES CSU, CHICO OFFER TO THE RETURNING RN?

- **A reputation of excellence.** The graduates of the School of Nursing at CSU, Chico are highly regarded by hiring agencies, and by their peers and clients. The BSN program is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing and the California Board of Registered Nursing.
- **Expert faculty** who are committed to teaching and to nursing practice. The faculty are masters and doctoral prepared clinicians, active professionally in a wide range of clinical settings, in publishing, in the use of computers in nursing, and in research. Your education will reflect the cutting edge of the future of nursing.
- **Flexibility.** The RN-BSN program is designed to challenge the returning RN, offering the same high quality program that the basic student receives. At the same time, it is designed to accommodate the needs of the working RN and to recognize the skills the practicing nurse has already acquired. 'Escrow' credit is granted for prior education/experience, to expedite the student's program in areas where expertise is already established. Course requirements are scheduled to accommodate work schedules.

- **Cost and convenience.** Most RNs continue working while progressing through the RN-BSN program. Local hospitals have encouraged and facilitated the RN returning to school and often provide partial reimbursement. CSU, Chico registration fees are much less than at most private colleges and external degree programs. Currently (Fall 2009), part-time tuition is approximately \$1,822.00, and full-time tuition is approximately \$2,668.00. Fees are subject to change without notice. Textbooks will likely cost between \$100 and \$200 each semester, but this depends on how many and what courses you are taking. Financial aid is coordinated through the financial aid department on campus.
- **State of the Art Resources.** CSU, Chico combines a beautiful campus, charming small town living, cultural events, outdoor recreation within easy reach, and state of the art technology to provide the optimum in education and living. CSU, Chico is an acknowledged leader in telecommunications and has been singled out nationwide for its innovation and pioneering efforts in the use of technology in education.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

RN-BSN students must apply to the School of Nursing and CSU, Chico and be accepted before they will be allowed to register for the first nursing course (N300W).

Before applying to the RN-BSN program, attend an advising session with the RN advisor. There is no charge for this advising session. Attendance at an advising session is required before you can apply to the program. Students who plan to attend an advising session are encouraged to send transcripts (unofficial is fine) ahead of time so that they can be reviewed prior to the advising session. We can create a progression plan for you which gives you a general idea of what courses you likely have left to take and when you should take them. (A formal transcript review occurs at the time you apply for admission to the university). A listing of upcoming group advising sessions can be found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/RNBSN/advising/layout.shtml>

Director: Sherry Fox 530-898-5891
sdfox@csuchico.edu

RN Advisor: Jennifer Lillibridge 530-898-6458
jlillibridge@csuchico.edu

Applying to the University: Do **NOT** apply to the university until you have met with the RN Advisor. You will want to be sure of what is needed for university admission, and have that in place before you actually apply. The RN advisor will help you to determine the semester when you will likely be able to start the nursing bridge course, and advise you of when you should submit the university application as well as the separate nursing application. When you are ready to apply to the university, applications are available online at www.csumentor.edu.

When you are ready to apply to the university, submit your application online at www.csumentor.edu. The application fee is \$55.00.

Official transcripts of all previously completed college courses and the completed application must be sent to:

Office of Admissions and Records
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0720

Applications to the School of Nursing are submitted to:

School of Nursing Office
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0200

Transfer Credit

Generally, all of your supporting courses for the associate degree program will transfer to CSU, Chico, i.e., English, Speech, Sociology, Psychology and your sciences. General studies courses completed at the community college are also transferable. Up to 70 units may be transferred in from community colleges.

Ten units of lower division nursing courses are transferred. Graduates of diploma programs without transferable college credit will be handled on an individual basis. Because all other CSU Chico Nursing credits are upper division units, we use a process of ‘escrow’ credit to grant the student upper division units required for graduation, without repeating lower division nursing work. For escrow credit, you will complete a designated upper division nursing course that is based on a foundation of prior nursing knowledge. On successful completion of that course, you will enroll and receive upper division credit for that prior foundation.

Advanced Nursing Practica (Clinical Course Requirements)

There are two required clinical courses in the RN-BSN program. One clinical course (N425) requires submission of a portfolio covering your maternal/child, mental health, nursing leadership experiences. Faculty will work with you individually to fill any gaps in those experiences. (For example, if you do not have experience with Denver Developmental Screening, you will attend a workshop on this and complete related assignments). Along with this course, you will register for Nursing 426, to receive 10 units of escrow credit based on your prior nursing experience, based on your experience portfolio.

The other clinical course is the public health/community health course (N474), which is typically completed at a community/public health agency near your home (135 hours). This clinical typically requires one full day a week for experience in an appropriate agency. Entry into this class is on a space available basis, prioritized by the date the RN has completed all other nursing courses. Summer practica may be arranged. Whenever possible, practicum sites are located in the student’s own community. All prerequisite nursing courses must be completed prior to taking the community health nursing courses. Completion of the BSN makes you eligible for the California public health nursing certificate.

Time to Complete the Program

Each RN will work with the RN advisor to achieve the maximum benefit from the program. This flexible approach allows each student to take as little time as possible or as much time as needed to complete the program. It is estimated that most RNs could complete the nursing courses in five semesters although some RNs choose longer or shorter time frames. Additional time may be required to complete general education requirements for the BSN. A total of 120 units are required for the BSN.

Other Requirements for the Degree

The RN must meet all university requirements for the degree. Many of the nursing prerequisites double count to meet university requirements. Associate degree nurses are often lacking courses in organic chemistry, nutrition, child or human development, critical thinking, math, U.S. History, American and State government, and one or two humanities courses. Courses also must be completed in ethnic and nonwestern studies. All of these courses are available at community colleges; some are available in the form of distance learning courses. Two upper division theme courses must be completed at CSU, Chico. Some of the upper division theme courses are available online, but local students may have more flexibility to take these courses on campus.

Cost of the Program

The first year of the program requires only part-time enrollment. Part time tuition for up to six units is approximately \$1263. Full time tuition for more than six units is approximately \$1845. The entire program can usually be completed for less than \$8000. Costs will increase if several part time semesters are substituted for the full time semesters or if the student elects to complete more of their GE and pre-requisite coursework at CSU, Chico.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR GETTING STARTED

1. At least one semester before you wish to start nursing courses, call the School of Nursing RN Advisor, (530) 898-5891. Plan to attend one of the small group advising sessions discussed on page 3, and listed on the Nursing website, www.csuchico.edu/nurs. Bring or send unofficial copies of your transcripts ahead of time for a preliminary evaluation of courses you will need.
2. You can begin taking lower division general education and nursing prerequisite courses before applying to the School of Nursing. These courses may be taken at community colleges. You should complete a logic/critical thinking and general studies math course (statistics preferred) before applying to the university.
3. Once you are ready to apply to the School of Nursing RN-BSN program, submit the application you received at the small group advising sessions. See page 3 for address. A copy of your active RN license is required with your program application.
4. When you are ready to apply to the university, write to previous colleges for official transcripts to be sent directly to Admissions and Records and to send a copy of your transcript to you (if you do not already have one). Keep a copy for yourself.
5. Make sure you have a good computer and broad band internet connection which meet the requirements specified at http://rce.csuchico.edu/online/tech_reqs.asp

Courses Required for CSU, Chico Nursing Major

All lower division courses can be taken at community colleges. Nursing Courses in bold are courses the RN usually takes in full, unless equivalent course content is demonstrated.

CSU, Chico #s	Course Title	Units
	Human Anatomy	4
	Human Physiology	4
	Microbiology	4
	Introduction to Psychology	3
	Child or Human Development	3
	Nutrition	3
	Organic or Bio Chemistry	4
	Freshman Comp. (English)	3
	Speech Or Small Group Commun.	3
	Logic or critical thinking	3
	Math—a transferable course beyond Intermediate Algebra. Statistics is preferred.	3
	Cultural Anthropology Or Princ. Of Sociology (Cult. Anthro Also Meets Nonwestern Course Requirement).	3
N282, 283, 284	Lower division credit transfers from ADN program. Diploma grads. need to validate these credits through an individual challenge process.	10
N300W	RN-BSN Bridge Course- prerequisite to all other nursing courses	3
N385W	Nursing Assessment-- may challenge; perform complete history and physical	2
N306W/307	Current Concepts in Baccalaureate Nursing (NURS 307 provides 6 units escrow credit).	3/6
N315W	Family Nursing	2
N422W	Leadership/Management	3
N425/426	Advanced Nursing Practicum- This course integrates baccalaureate level skills in adult, maternal/child, leadership/management, and maladaptive behavior nursing. (NURS 426 provides 10 units escrow credit).	3/10
N332W	Research	2
N475W	Public Health Nursing	3
N474	Comm. Health Nurs. Pract. --requires 135 hours in community health settings.	3
N495W	Concepts of Advanced Pathophysiology and Nursing Theory (on completion of this course, 6 units of escrow credit are applied for NURS 303).	4/6

(All prior courses must be completed before enrolling in Nursing 474 and 495W, the shaded areas)

RN-BSN Requirements

Nursing Requirements- 50 units total

9 theory courses to be taken in full (exceptions per approval Director School of Nursing) - 21 units course work plus 12 units escrow credit

- N300 W (3 units)- RN/BSN Bridge course- available online
- N306 W (3 units)- Basic Concepts in Baccalaureate Nursing- available online (on completion of N306, the student receives an additional 6 units of credit for N307)
- N315 W (2 units)- Family Nursing- available online
- N332 W (2 units)- Nursing Research- available online
- N385 W (2 units)- Nursing Assessment- available online
- N422 W (3 units)- Leadership, Management, and Professional Issues- available online
- N475 W (3 units)- Public Health Nursing- available online
- N495 W (4 units) - Pathophysiology for Integrated Nursing Practice- available online (on completion of N495, the student receives an additional 6 units of credit for N303). You should register for N303 at the same time you register for 495W).

Nursing practicum courses required (6 units plus 10 units escrow credit)

N425 (3 units) + N426 (10 units based on prior experience). This clinical course is completed by a portfolio submission (covers maternal/child, mental health, leadership), followed by individually arranged experiences to fill in clinical gaps not covered in the portfolio assessment.

N474 (3 units) - Public health/Community Health practicum: 135 hour clinical course- may be completed in student's local region if agency contracts are in place. Students who live outside of our traditional service area may be able to identify an agency willing to precept them, but if contract agreements cannot be obtained, the student will have to travel to one of our existing clinical sites.

RN-BSN PATTERNS

Regular Schedule of Online Course Offerings for RN-BSN

COURSE	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
NURS 300 W RN-BSN BRIDGE	(Aug)	(Jan)	--
NURS 306W CURRENT CONCEPTS	X	X	--
NURS 315W FAMILY NURSING	X	X	--
NURS 332W RESEARCH	X	X	--
NURS 385W ASSESSMENT	--	--	X
NURS 422W LEADERSHIP	X	X	--
NURS 425 ADV. PRACTICUM	X	X	--
NURS 475W PUBLIC HEALTH	X	X	--
NURS 474 CHN PRACTICUM	(Space available only)	X	X
NURS 495W ADV. PATHO	X	--	X (requires 10 students)

Courses offered for escrow credit (303, 307 and 326 can be taken either fall or spring semester, when you are paying full-time state tuition).

Courses may be canceled if fewer than 10 students enroll.

Pre-Requisite/Co-Requisite Nursing Courses:

- Human Anatomy (4 units)
- Physiology (4 units)
- Bacteriology/Microbiology (4 units)
- Psychology (3 units)
- Child Development or Human Development (3 units)
- Nutrition (3-4 units)

Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry (4 units) *
Cultural Anthropology or Sociology (3 units)
English Composition (3 units)
Speech or Small Group Communication (3 units)
Critical Thinking
Math (must be transferable to CSU for general education requirement; statistics preferred).

* Please note that Coastline Community College offers Chem 110, an online course which meets both the inorganic and organic chemistry requirements. See the current Coastline Community College catalog at <http://dl.ccc.cccd.edu> or call 714-241-6216 to have a catalog sent to you.

Shasta Community College also offers an online organic chemistry course (CHEM 26). Information is at: <http://www3.shastacollege.edu/chemistry/Cgottlieb/index.html>

University Requirements

General Education

- Area A- 12 units (Speech, English Composition, Logic/Critical Thinking, Math) - Most RNs need to take the Math (statistics preferred) and Logic courses. Both are available through Coastline Community College and local community colleges and should be taken before admittance to the CSU. Most RNs have met the English and Speech requirements with their Associate Degree.
- Area B- Science- 6 units (Chemistry, Biology courses). Anatomy, physiology and chemistry usually count for this area, if taken for college credit.
- Area C- Humanities and Fine Arts (9 units). U.S History counts for 3 of these units. RNs need two courses from this area, if not completed with their Associate Degree
- Area D- Behavioral and Social Sciences (9 units)- Generally completed by pre-requisites and double counting of other university requirements
- Area E- Lifelong Learning (3 units) - Nutrition or Child Development will meet this requirement.
- Constitution and American Ideals (3 units) - Available through local community colleges.
- US History (3 units)- Available through local community colleges
- Ethnic/Non Western requirement- 6 units- You may select specific Area C courses or Upper Division Theme courses to double count the Ethnic or NonWestern requirement. (Cultural anthropology course usually meets non-western requirement)
- Thematic Requirement (9 units) - 3 units waived for nursing majors. Remaining 6 units must be taken from one theme in non-science courses (see list below). It may be possible to meet this requirement by select online offerings. The theme requirement must be met by courses from CSU, Chico. You will select a theme and take two courses (non-science) in the theme.
- Electives as needed to attain 120 units total. A maximum of 70 units may be transferred from community colleges

Special Notes:

- ◆ Submit your application for university enrollment for spring by August 31 of the preceding year. Submit your application for university enrollment for fall by November 30 of the preceding year. Up to 70 units may be transferred in from community colleges. The remaining 50 units must come from a 4 year university or college. With the 50 units from nursing and 6 units from the theme courses, RNs will likely NOT need any elective upper division credit from CSU, Chico. A minimum of 30 units must be completed at CSU, Chico.
- ◆ N300 W is the first course in the nursing sequence and is pre-requisite to all other nursing courses. N385W, N306W, N315W, N332W and N422W may be taken in any order.
- ◆ Students may not enroll in any clinical nursing courses until they have a valid, current nursing license.
- ◆ N425 must be taken before N475W, N474 and 495W.
- ◆ N495W, N475W, and N474 should be the last courses taken in the program. All other nursing courses and nursing prerequisite/co-requisite courses must be completed. Any incompletes received in nursing courses must be removed prior to registering for these courses.
- ◆ N425 and N474 can be not taken until the School of Nursing has on file: a copy of your current RN license, your current CPR card, current immunizations including tetanus, MMR, second measles, Hepatitis series, and TB test.
- ◆ You must present proof of auto insurance prior to enrolling in N474