

CSU, Chico
School of Nursing

RN-BSN Program

California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0200
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 to meet the state's health care needs. To meet this mandate, the School of Nursing has developed online formats for both the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) and Master of Science, Nursing (MSN) programs.

The RN-BSN program, which is Internet based (using Bb Learn), 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-days-a-week, around-the-clock, work schedules.

An Internet based program 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 their instructor and classmates. The online format provides maximum flexibility to the RN, and eliminates much of the on-campus time required and the travel which it entails. Although most courses do require attendance on campus for orientation each semester, this does not usually exceed one or two days each semester. One course has a practicum requirement, but students are generally placed with preceptors in agencies close to where they live (when feasible).

The program takes 15 months (including 2 summers & one January intersession) to complete. **The application deadline for the program is February 15. Applications are provided to candidates who have had their official college transcripts evaluated, meet the requirements of completion of all nursing prerequisites, nursing co-requisites, and lower division general education, have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of all college work attempted, AND have attended an RN to BSN Advising Session.** The most recent 60 units will be used if it is higher than the overall cumulative. If you are a second degree (prior baccalaureate degree) student, all your general education is considered complete by Chico State and you will not have to take the two upper division GE courses built into the program sequence.

WHAT DOES CSU, CHICO OFFER TO THE RETURNING RN?

- **A reputation of excellence** throughout the north state. The BSN program is fully accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Nurses and the California Board of Registered Nursing.
- **Expert faculty** who are committed to teaching and to nursing practice. The faculty consists of masters and doctoral prepared clinicians who are 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 nursing pedagogy.
- **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.
- **Cost and Convenience.** Most RNs continue working while progressing through the RN-BSN program; however, based on student feedback, it is recommended that RNs do not

work full time during the academic year semesters of Fall/Spring. Many local healthcare organizations 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.

- **Self-Support.** The RN to BSN program at CSU, Chico is a self-support program. This means the program is administered through Regional and Continuing Education (RCE) on campus and managed by the School of Nursing. All fees are paid through RCE and are unit based, (not part time or full time based as is the case for state support university students). The program begins in the Summer session (every June) and ends at the end of the following Summer session (August). The cost for the program usually runs between \$280-\$300/unit. Total current program cost is approximately \$14,000 or less (if you are a second degree student). 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. Because the program is self-support, RNs are not eligible for state financial aid, only federal financial aid. RCE sends out financial aid links during registration times.
- **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.

New Graduates:

Applications for the program will be accepted from students completing the final semester of their A.D.N. program at the time of the February 15 application deadline if they have a 3.0 GPA in their A.D.N. program for the semesters already completed AND they meet all other program requirements.

Proof of California licensure as an RN is required prior to commencement of Fall Semester. If proof of licensure is not provided by the day of orientation of the Fall semester, the student will not be allowed to take classes. The student will apply for a Personal Educational Leave or be dropped from the program.

Some coursework in the RN to BSN Program draws upon work experience as an RN. Thus, new graduates are encouraged to find employment as an RN. Any new graduate RN or RN without work experience as an RN (in any setting) must apply to enroll in the Rural California Nursing Preceptorship (RCNP) program, or equivalent as determined by the RN to BSN advisor, by the RCNP September deadline (as shown on the RCNP website), following students' first summer session of the program. This nursing preceptorship will take place during the winter session. Information about this preceptorship, including costs, can be found on the RCNP website: <http://www.csuchico.edu/rcnp>. Candidates for the Winter RCNP program are selected from the applicants who have applied by the September deadline. Those RN to BSN students who apply but are not chosen to participate in the RCNP Program will work with the RN to BSN Advisor on other potential options.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

RN-BSN Coordinator/Advisor: Janet Ellis, RN, MSN, FACHE, jellis@csuchico.edu

The application period for admission to the RN-BSN program ends February 15 each year. Applications will be processed and acceptance letters e-mailed to RNs at the end of February. **DO NOT** apply to the university until you have been accepted into the nursing program.

In order to apply to the program, RNs must attend an on-campus or virtual RN-BSN advising session. The on campus sessions are held monthly during the academic year; virtual sessions are offered more frequently and will also be offered in summer. Dates/times for each session during the semester are posted on the School of Nursing website: <http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/>. Choose the link for the “Prospective RN to BSN Students”. Dates/times for summer sessions will be posted to the above website by the end of May. Expression of Interest forms or applications for admission to the program are accepted at (or after for virtual sessions) advising sessions only. You cannot apply unless you have attended an advising session.

How do I apply?

Step 1: Follow the steps outlined on the CSUC School of Nursing webpage, found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/>, choose the “Prospective RN to BSN Students” link.

Complete the Transcript Information Form found on that page and email to the RN to BSN Program Advisor. jellis@csuchico.edu

Step 2: Have your official college transcripts sent to CSU, Chico per the directions on the RN to BSN webpage.

Step 3: Attend an advising session and submit an expression of interest or application to the RN -BSN advisor.

Step 4: ONLY after acceptance into the program has been confirmed by an e-mail from the RN-BSN advisor, apply to the university.

Applying to the University: Once you have been accepted to the nursing program, you will receive email notification about how to apply to the university. The application fee is currently \$55.00.

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 the prerequisite and co-requisite areas and some general education requirements. All of these courses are available at community colleges; some are available in the form of distance learning courses. CSU, Chico also has a diversity requirement for graduation in the areas of Global Cultures & United States Diversity. Two upper division general education courses must be completed at CSU, Chico. These courses are chosen for you so that they also meet both the diversity and global cultures requirements. The two upper division general education courses are waived for RNs who already have a bachelor’s degree.

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 education courses completed at the community college are also transferable. Up to 70 units may be transferred from community colleges.

Graduates of diploma programs without transferable college credit will be handled on an individual basis.

Nursing Pre-Requisite and Co-Requisite Courses Taken Prior to the RN-BSN Program*

Course Title and General Education Requirement Met	Completion Prior to February 15 Application Deadline	Units
Chemistry (general, integrated, inorganic or organic chemistry) with lab – B1	Pre-req	3-5
Human Physiology with lab – B2	Pre-req	3-5
Human Anatomy with lab – B2	Pre-req	4-5
Microbiology with lab	Pre-req	3-5
Oral Communication – A1 (Foundation)	Pre-req	3
Written Communication – A2 (Foundation)	Pre-req	3
Critical Thinking – A3 (Foundation)	Pre-req	3
Quantitative Reasoning (Statistics) – A4 (Foundation)	Pre-req	3
Nutrition - Learning for Life	Co-req	3
Introduction to Psychology – Societal Institutions	Co-req	3
Child or Human Development – Learning for Life	Co-req	3
Cultural Anthropology OR Principles of Sociology Individual & Society	Co-req	3

*All nursing prerequisites & co-requisites must be completed with a grade of C- or better

Lower Division General Education Requirements Needed for Graduation (completed prior to the February 15 application deadline)

Course Title and General Education Requirement Met	Completed Prior to Graduation	Units
Arts - C1	Need one class	3
Humanities – C2	Need one class	3
US History –100 years (A1)	Need one class	3
Political Science – gov/local/state (CA)/national (A1)	Need one class	3

Nursing Courses Required for the CSU, Chico, RN-BSN Program

Summer Session 1	Units
NURS 301 e-Portfolio Development	2
NURS 307P Nursing Portfolio I	6
RELS 332 World Religion and Global Issues (GC)	3
TOTAL UNITS	11

Fall Semester	Units
NURS 300W Bridge Course	4
NURS 342W Nursing Research	3
NURS 308P Nursing Portfolio II	8
TOTAL UNITS	15

January Intersession	Units
MCGS 310 LGBTQ Issues & Identities (USD)	3
TOTAL UNITS	3

Spring Semester	Units
NURS 495W Concepts of Advanced Pathophysiology and Nursing Theory	4
NURS 422W* Leadership/Management & Professional Issues in Nursing	3
NURS 309P Nursing Portfolio III	8
TOTAL UNITS	15

Summer Session 2	Units
NURS 474R** Community Health Nursing Practice	3
NURS 475W Public Health Theory	3
TOTAL UNITS	6

*Writing proficiency (WP) course for the major, Writing Intensive and Capstone course for General Education.

**Public Health clinical course. Attempts are made to place students in agencies close to where they live, but such placement is not guaranteed.

Community Health Nursing Practicum (Clinical Course Requirements)

There is one required clinical course in the RN-BSN program. This is the public health/community health course (N474R), which is typically completed at a community/public health agency near your home (135 hours). This clinical typically requires at least one full day a week for a summer in an appropriate agency. Whenever possible, practicum sites are located in the student's own community. Completion of the BSN makes you eligible to apply for the California public health nursing certificate.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR GETTING STARTED

1. It is required that you complete all lower division general education courses, as well as all nursing pre-requisites and co-requisites before your application will be considered. These courses may be taken at community colleges. All required courses must be completed with official transcript documentation by the application deadline of February 15 for admission that June. **A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in all college work attempted is required.** The most recent 60 units of college work can be used to meet the GPA requirement.

2. Some community colleges offer online pre/co-requisite courses for nursing.

Coastline Community College offers several online chemistry courses that meet our requirements (make sure it has a lab) (Chem 110, C180 A & C185B, C220, C220 & C225). Coastline also offers Statistics online: Math C160. See the current Coastline Community College catalog at <http://www.coastline.edu/>.

Shasta College also offers an online integrated chemistry course (CHEM 26). Make sure the CHEM 26 class is with a lab. Shasta also offers Statistics: Math 14. Information is at: <http://www3.shastacollege.edu/>

Butte College offers 2 nutrition courses online that meet our requirements (FN 2 & FN 40) and a child development course (CDF 14) that meet our requirements. Information can be found at <http://www.butte.edu/>

3. ASSIST (<http://www.assist.org/>) is a valuable tool to help you determine if course credits earned at a California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities and therefore provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California.