

CSU, Chico  
School of Nursing

RN-BSN Program

California State University, Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0200  
530-898-5891  
[www.csuchico.edu/nurs](http://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 Master of Science, Nursing (MSN) programs.

The Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) program, which is 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 most courses do require attendance on campus for orientation each semester, this does not usually exceed one or two days each semester. One course that has a practicum requirement is designed for the nurse to complete by working with preceptors in the nurse's home area (within a 100 mile radius of Chico and if an agency contract can be established).

The program takes 15 months (including 2 summers) 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/programs/rnbsn/index.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 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 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. e-Portfolio courses are used to assess 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. 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.
- The program is funded through self-support. This means that RNs pay fees through the Regional and Continuing Education office and do not pay standard CSUC tuition rates or fees. The program has recently been revised and begins in the Summer semester and ends at the end of the following Summer semester. The cost for the program usually runs between \$275-\$300/unit. Total program cost is approximately \$15,000 or less and the cost per semester and summer session will vary from \$1700- \$3000. 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.
- **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 by both before they will be allowed to register for the first nursing course (N301).**

**Before applying to the RN-BSN program**, attend an advising session with the RN-BSN 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 create a progression plan for you, which give you an 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). The link for a listing of upcoming group advising sessions can be found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/programs/rnbsn/index.shtml>

RN-BSN Coordinator/Advisor: Jennifer Lillibridge - [jlillibridge@csuchico.edu](mailto:jlillibridge@csuchico.edu)

**Applying to the University:** Do **NOT** apply to the university until you have met with the RN-BSN 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-BSN Advisor will help you to determine the year when you will likely be able to start the nursing courses, and advise you of when you should submit the

university application as well as the separate nursing application. **You must be accepted into the nursing program and accepted to the university before you can register for N301.** When you are ready to apply to the university, applications are available online at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu).

When you are ready to apply to the university, submit your application online at [www.csumentor.edu](http://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 Portfolio courses to grant the student upper division units required for graduation, without repeating lower division nursing work. For Portfolio credit, you will complete three designated upper division nursing courses that are based on a foundation of prior nursing knowledge.

### **Advanced Nursing Practica (Clinical Course Requirements)**

There is one required clinical course in the RN-BSN program. This is the public health/community health course (N464), 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. Summer practica are used to fulfill this clinical requirement. 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 to apply for the California public health nursing certificate.

## Time to Complete the Program

Each RN will work with the RN-BSN Advisor to achieve the maximum benefit from the program. It is estimated that most RNs can complete the nursing courses in 15 months, including two summers. 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 global cultures and US diversity 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. These theme courses will be chosen for you so that you can meet both diversity requirements with the theme courses.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR GETTING STARTED

1. At least one semester before you wish to start nursing courses, e-mail the School of Nursing RN-BSN Advisor, [jillibridge@csuchico.edu](mailto:jillibridge@csuchico.edu). Plan to attend one of the small group advising sessions discussed on page 3, and listed on the Nursing website, <http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs>. 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 **must** complete a logic/critical thinking, speech/oral communication and general studies math course (statistics preferred) before being accepted 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 session. 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 that meet the requirements specified at [http://rce.csuchico.edu/online/tech\\_reqs.asp](http://rce.csuchico.edu/online/tech_reqs.asp)

### Courses Required for CSU, Chico Nursing Major

Nursing Courses in bold are courses the RN usually takes in full, unless equivalent course content is demonstrated.

Pre-req = must be completed prior to starting the RN-BSN program

Co-req = can be taken while in the RN-BSN program

Courses listed in **bold** in the Completion Prior to Graduation column are the pre-requisites for this particular course.

CSU, Chico #s	Course Title	Completion Prior to Graduation	Units
	Human Anatomy	Pre-req	3-5
	Human Physiology	Pre-req	3-5
	Microbiology	Pre-req	4-5
	Introduction to Psychology	Co-req	3
	Child or Human Development	Co-req	3
	Nutrition	Co-req	3
	Organic or Bio Chemistry	Prior to taking N495	4
	Freshman Comp. (English)	Pre-req	3
	Speech Or Small Group Communication	Pre-req	3
	Logic / critical thinking	Pre-req	3
	Math—a transferable course beyond Intermediate Algebra. Statistics is preferred.	Pre-req	3
	Cultural Anthropology OR Principles of Sociology (Cultural Anthropology also meets Global Cultures Course Requirement)	Co-req	3
N282, 283, 284	Lower division credit transfers from ADN program. Diploma grads. need to validate these credits through an individual challenge process.	Pre-req	10
N301	<b>e-Portfolio Development</b>	<b>Pre-req</b>	<b>2</b>
N307P	<b>Portfolio I</b>	<b>Pre-req</b>	<b>6</b>
N300W	<b>RN-BSN Bridge Course</b>	<b>Passed NCLEX, N301, N307P</b>	<b>4</b>
N308P	<b>Portfolio II</b>	<b>N301, N307P</b>	<b>8</b>
N342W	<b>Evidence-Based Nursing Practice</b>	<b>N301, N307P</b>	<b>3</b>
N309P	<b>Portfolio III</b>	<b>N300, N308P, N342</b>	<b>8</b>
N422W	<b>Leadership/Management &amp; Professional Issues in Nursing</b>	<b>N300, N308P, N342</b>	<b>3</b>
N495W	<b>Concepts of Advanced Pathophysiology and Nursing Theory</b>	<b>Organic Chemistry, N300W, N342W, N308P</b>	<b>4</b>
N463W	<b>Gerontology (waived)</b>		<b>1</b>
N475W	<b>Public Health Nursing</b>	<b>N422W, N309P, N495W</b>	<b>3</b>
N464	<b>Comm. Health Nurs. Pract.</b> --requires 135 hours in community health settings.	<b>N495W, N422W, N309P</b> <b>N475W concurrent</b>	<b>3</b>

**(All other program courses must be completed before enrolling in N464 and N475W.)**

## RN-BSN Requirements

### Nursing Requirements- 45 units total

#### 8 theory courses to be taken in full (exceptions per approval Director School of Nursing)

- N301 (2 units)- e-Portfolio Development
- N307P (6 units)- Portfolio I
- N300 W (4 units)- RN/BSN Bridge course
- N342 W (3 units)- Evidence-Based Nursing Practice
- N308P (8 units)- Portfolio II
- N422 W (3 units)- Leadership, Management, and Professional Issues
- N309P (8 units)- Portfolio III
- N495 W (4 units) - Pathophysiology for Integrated Nursing Practice
- N463W (1 unit)- Gerontology (waived)
- N475 W (3 units)- Public Health Nursing

#### Nursing practicum course required

N464 (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

Tentative Regular Schedule of Online Course Offerings for RN-BSN

X = offered

-- = not offered

COURSE	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
NURS 301E-PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT	--	--	X
NURS 307P PORTFOLIO I	--	--	X
NURS 300 W RN-BSN BRIDGE	X	--	--
NURS 308P PORTFOLIO II	X	--	--
NURS 342W EB NURSING PRACTICE	X	--	--
NURS 422W LEADERSHIP	--	X	--
NURS 309P PORTFOLIO III	--	X	--
NURS 495W ADV. PATHO	--	X	--
NURS 475W PUBLIC HEALTH	--	--	X
NURS 464 CHN PRACTICUM	--	--	X

Courses may be canceled if fewer than 10 students enroll.

All lower division courses can be taken at community colleges.

\* Please note that Coastline Community College offers Chem 110, an online course, which meets the organic chemistry requirement. 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 must 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
- Global Cultures & US Diversity requirement- 6 units- You may select specific Area C courses or Upper Division Theme courses to double count the Global Cultures & US Diversity requirement. (Cultural anthropology course meets Global Cultures requirement)
- Thematic Requirement (9 units) - 3 units waived for nursing majors. Remaining 6 units must be taken from the two courses selected by the program.
- 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 summer admission after you have received an acceptance notice by the RN-BSN Advisor. 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 45 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.
- ◆ Students may not enroll in any clinical nursing courses until they have a valid, current nursing license.
- ◆ N475W and N464 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.
- ◆ N464 cannot be not taken until: The School of Nursing has a copy of your current RN license, a current CPR card, and current immunizations including tetanus, pertussis (TDAP),MMR, second measles, Hepatitis series, PPD, varicella, annual flu, and TB test. You will also be required to complete a criminal background check and 10 panel drug test through CertifiedBackground.com.
- ◆ You must present proof of auto insurance prior to enrolling in N464.