



RN to BSN Program for Associate Degree RN Graduates

Program Overview

We are excited that you are considering the RN-BSN Program at Chico State as a way to complete your Bachelor of Science in Nursing! Chico State 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 web based (using Blackboard Learn and Zoom), 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.

An online program means that an RN with a fairly new computer and internet access can meet most course requirements from the comfort of their own home, yet remain connected with instructors and classmates. The online format provides maximum flexibility to the RN and eliminates a significant amount of on-campus time and travel. Although most courses require attendance on campus for orientation each semester, this does not usually exceed one day each semester. One course has a practicum requirement, but when feasible students are typically placed with preceptors in agencies close to where they live.

The RN-BSN program takes 15 months to complete. This includes in total five semesters: the first summer session, a fall semester, a winter session, a spring semester, and the second/final summer session.

Benefits of the RN-BSN Program

- **A reputation of excellence** throughout the north state. The RN-BSN program is fully accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Nurses and the California Board of Registered Nursing.
- **Become eligible for the Public Health Nursing Certification.** Curriculum and coursework are built in to the RN-BSN program that meets the certification requirements.

- **Expert faculty** who are committed to teaching and to nursing practice. The faculty consists of 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 nursing pedagogy.
- **Flexibility.** The RN-BSN program is designed to challenge the returning RN, offering the same high-quality program that the pre-licensure nursing student receives. At the same time, it is designed to accommodate the needs of the working RN and to recognize the skills that 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 fall and final summer semester. Many local healthcare organizations have encouraged and facilitated the RN returning to school and often provide partial reimbursement. Chico State registration fees are much less than most private colleges and external degree programs.
- **State of the Art Resources.** Chico State combines a beautiful campus, charming small-town living, cultural events, outdoor recreation within easy reach, and current technology to provide the optimum in education and living. Chico State 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.

Self-Support Program

The RN-BSN program at Chico State is a self-support program. This means the program is administered through Chico State's [Regional and Continuing Education \(RCE\)](#) and managed by the School of Nursing. Students register for courses and pay tuition through RCE. Course fees are paid per unit (not part-time or full-time unit 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 in August. Current program cost is approximately \$12,450 plus books or less (if you are a second bachelor's degree/post-baccalaureate student). [Textbooks](#) will cost approximately \$100 to \$200 each semester, but this depends on how many are required and what courses you are taking. As a self-support program, students will not pay extra fees for campus services they will not be using such as the WREC and WellCat Health Center. However, some campus services are available upon request for an extra fee.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is coordinated through the [Financial Aid & Scholarship Office at Chico State](#). Because the program is self-support, students in the RN-BSN program are not eligible for State financial aid such as Cal Grant, only Federal financial aid. Students may be eligible for

Pell Grant and federal student/educational loans and can apply through [FAFSA](#). More information will be sent out once students are admitted to the program.

Admission Requirements

Applications are provided to candidates who meet the following qualifications:

- Are California residents
- Have an active California RN license (or are in their final semester of their A.D.N. program and/or are awaiting their NCLEX results)
- Have had their official college transcripts evaluated
- Meet the requirements of completion of all [nursing prerequisites](#) with minimum grade of C
- Have completed all [lower division general education requirements](#)
- Have 70 units of transferrable college units (counting 16 or less nursing units)
- Have 20 or more transferrable nursing units, which are over and above the 70 units described above
- Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in all college work attempted (most recent 60 units can be used)
- Have attended an RN-BSN Program Advising Session

Prerequisite Coursework

- [See Transfer Worksheet for a List of All Required Courses & Units](#)

Additional Program Requirements

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

Some coursework in the RN-BSN Program draws upon work experience as an RN. Thus, new A.D.N. graduates are encouraged to find employment as an RN. Any new 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-BSN Coordinator, 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](#). Candidates for the Winter RCNP program are selected from the applicants who have applied by the September deadline. Those RN-BSN students who apply, but are not chosen

to participate, in the RCNP Program will work with the RN-BSN Coordinator on other potential options.

Application Information

The application deadline for admission to the RN-BSN program February 15th 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 a virtual RN-BSN advising session (or watch the advising video) and complete the advising session quiz. All dates and times for each session are posted on the School of Nursing [RN-BSN Program website with a link to register for each date.](#)

How to Apply

Follow the steps outlined below. Complete details/instructions are available on the [RN-BSN Program website.](#)

Step 1: Complete the [Transcript Information Form](#) and email to the program advisor

Step 2: Send Transcripts per the instructions and address provided on the RN-BSN website

Step 3: [Attend an Advising Session](#) & [Complete the Quiz](#)

Step 4: Submit the RN-BSN Program Application

Step 5: Apply to Chico State following special instructions from the Office of Admissions **after** you have been accepted to the RN-BSN Program. **Do not apply to Chico State until after you have been admitted to the RN-BSN Program.**

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 sometimes still need to complete some prerequisites and some General Education requirements. All of these courses are available at community colleges; some are available online. Two upper division general education courses must be completed at Chico State. These courses are chosen for you and incorporated into the RN-BSN curriculum to ensure students will meet graduation requirements by the end of the RN-BSN Program. The two upper division general education courses are waived for RNs who already have a Bachelor's degree.

Transfer Credit

Typically, most if not all supporting courses for the associate degree program will transfer

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

Additional Coursework Information

1. All prerequisite and general education requirements are listed on the [RN-BSN Transfer Planning Worksheet](#). Please consult with the program advisor for questions related to course requirements.
2. It is required that you complete all **lower division general education courses**, as well as all nursing prerequisites before your application will be considered. Some coursework may be in progress at the time that you apply and acceptance to the program is conditional on completing all coursework. Please consult with the program advisor. All required courses must be completed with a **minimum C grade** before RN-BSN courses start in June. A **minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in all college course work** attempted is required. The most recent 60 units of college work can be used to meet the GPA requirement.
3. Some Community Colleges offer online prerequisite courses for nursing.
 - [Coastline College](#) offers an online chemistry course that meets our requirements: CHEM 110. Coastline also offers Statistics online: MATH C160. See the [current Coastline Community College catalog](#) for more information.
 - [Shasta College](#) offers an online integrated chemistry course (CHEM 26). Shasta offers Statistics: Math 14.
 - [Butte College](#) offers two Nutrition courses online that meet our requirements (FN 2 & FN 50) and a child development course (CDF 14) that meet our requirements.
 - [Feather River College](#) offers the following online courses: ENGL 101 (Written Communication), PHIL 101 (Critical Thinking), MATH 202 (Stats), HIST 108 (US History), and POL 101 (Pol.Sci.). Most of them are offered in Fall, Spring, and Summer Semesters.
 - [Community College Roadmaps to the RN-BSN Program](#) at Chico State (for Butte College, College of the Redwoods, College of the Siskiyous, Mendocino College, Shasta College, and Yuba College).
4. [ASSIST.org](#) is the official course transfer and articulation system for California's public colleges and universities and provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California. It is a valuable tool to help you determine if course credits earned at one California college or university can be applied when transferred to another.

International Coursework

Students with international coursework should contact the RN-BSN program for specific information. Demonstration of English language proficiency may be required.

RN-BSN Major Academic Plan

Looking ahead, prospective students can view the [RN-BSN Course Plan](#) that is available on the RB-BSN website.

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 practicum course (NURS 478), which is typically completed at a community/public health agency near your home. A total of 135 clinical hours are fulfilled in a variety of ways throughout the duration of the practicum course:

- Orientation – 5 hours
- Agency with preceptor – Approximately 56 hours
- Simulation in virtual environment – Approximately 24 hours
 - Usually a week day as opposed to a weekend day
 - 8-hour shift
 - 1 day/week
- Community Project – 40 hours
- Seminar – 10 hours

The clinical requires at least one full day a week during the final summer term 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.

Program Contact Information

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