

CSU, Chico
School of Nursing

RN to BSN Program
for
Associate Degree RN Graduates

California State University, Chico
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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-day-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 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 day 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 Summer Sessions & one Winter Session) to complete. **The application deadline for the program is February 15.**

Applications are provided to candidates who

- are California residents
- have an active California RN license (or are in their final semester of their A.D.N. program or are awaiting their NCLEX results)
- have had their official college transcripts evaluated
- meet the requirements of completion of all nursing pre-requisites (with minimum grade of "C")
- meet 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 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in all college work attempted (most recent 60 units can be used)
- have attended an RN to BSN Advising Session.

Note: NCLEX failure is grounds for being removed from the program and/or not enrolling.

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, 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 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 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). Current program cost is approximately \$13,000 plus books 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 current 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 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 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 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®, jlellis@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. Expressions of Interest forms or applications for admission to the program are accepted at (or after for virtual sessions) advising sessions only.

Note: 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/>, in the “Potential RN to BSN Students” link.

Complete the Transcript Information Form found on that page and email it to the RN to BSN Program Advisor. jlellis@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 pre-requisite and some General Education requirements. All of these courses are available at community colleges; some are available in the form of distance learning courses. Two upper division general education courses must be completed at CSU, Chico. These courses are chosen for you and incorporated into the RN to BSN curriculum to ensure students will meet graduation requirements by the end of the RN to BSN Program. 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.

Students with International Coursework

Students with International Coursework should contact the RN to BSN Advisor for specific information. Demonstration of English language proficiency may be required.

Nursing Pre-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 associated lab if required at the institution where the course was taken – B1 | Pre-req | 3-5 |
| Human Physiology with lab – B2, B3 | Pre-req | 3-5 |
| Human Anatomy with lab – B2, B3 | Pre-req | 4-5 |
| Microbiology with lab- B2, B3 | 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), B4 | Pre-req | 3 |
| *All Nursing Prerequisites must be completed with a grade of "C" or better | | |

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

| General Education Requirements & Area Met | Completed Prior to Graduation | Units |
|---|--|-------|
| Arts - C1 | Need one class | 3 |
| Humanities – C2 | Need one class | 3 |
| Individual & Society – D1 | Need one class; recommend Intro to Sociology | 3 |
| Societal Institutions – D2 | Need one class; Recommend Psychology | 3 |
| Learning for Life - E | Need one class; recommend Nutrition | 3 |
| US History –100 years (AI) | Need one class | 3 |
| Political Science – gov/local/state (CA)/national (AI) | Need one class | 3 |
| | | |

Note: 70 units of transferrable college units are required prior to entering RN to BSN Program. A minimum of fifty-four units need to be from non-nursing courses. A maximum of 36 units of nursing can be used (up to 16 units can be used to make up the 70 transfer units and 20 are used as part of the NCLEX credit of 20 units issued in the last semester of RN to BSN program based on CSU Executive Order 1084 provision).

Upper Division General Education: Two upper division GE courses need to be completed at CSUC. They are part of the RN to BSN Curriculum.

RN-BSN Program Curriculum

| Summer Session 1 | Units |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| NURS 300W RN to BSN Bridge Course | 4 |
| NURS 310 Academic Writing for Nurses | 2 |
| TOTAL UNITS | 6 |

| Fall Semester | Units |
|---|--------------|
| NURS 316 Nursing Informatics | 3 |
| NURS 342 Nursing Research | 3 |
| RELS 332 World Religion and Global Issues (GC)-UDGE | 3 |
| TOTAL UNITS | 9 |

| Winter Session | Units |
|---|--------------|
| MCGS 310 LGBTQ Issues & Identities (USD)-UDGE | 3 |
| TOTAL UNITS | 3 |

| Spring Semester | Units |
|---|--------------|
| NURS 420W* Leadership/Management & Professional Issues in Nursing | 4 |
| NURS 427 Professional Values & Ethics in Nursing | 2 |
| TOTAL UNITS | 6 |

| Summer Session 2 | Units |
|---|--------------|
| NURS 477 Public Health Nursing Theory** | 3 |
| NURS 478*** Practicum in Community Health Nursing | 3 |
| TOTAL UNITS | 6 |

Total Units=30 + 20 units for passing NCLEX**=50 units
+ 70 units of transfer coursework=120units for BSN**

Upper Division General Education (UDGE) courses-waived for 2nd Bacc. Students

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

** Upper Division GE Science

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

.**** NCLEX Credit issued in final semester of the RN to BSN program, based on individual transcript evaluation, pursuant to CSU Executive Order 1084.

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 (N478), 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 before your application will be considered. These courses may be taken at community colleges. All requirement 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 prerequisite courses for nursing.

Coastline Community 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 at <http://www.coastline.edu/>.

Shasta Community College also offers an online integrated chemistry course (CHEM 26). Shasta also offers Statistics: Math 14. Information is at: <http://www3.shastacollege.edu/>

Butte Community College offers 2 Nutrition courses online that meet our requirements (FN 2 & FN 50) and a child development course (CDF 14) that meet our requirements. Information can be found at <http://www.butte.edu/>

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. Information can be found at: <https://www.frc.edu/>

3. ASSIST (<http://www.assist.org/>) 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. 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.