

## RN to BSN Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the difference between the Pre-Licensure BSN degree program and the RN to BSN degree program?**

The Pre-Licensure BSN degree program is for students who do *not* already have an associate's degree (ADN) or a diploma in nursing, and do not already have an RN license. The RN to BSN program is for students who *do* have an associate's degree (ADN) or a diploma in nursing, already have an RN license, and would like to complete their BSN degree.

**What are the admission criteria for the RN to BSN program?**

The admission criteria for the RN to BSN program is the same no matter which option you want to pursue (on campus vs. off campus vs. online). The minimum admission criteria may be found on the [RN to BSN Admission Criteria](#) page of our website.

**Is admission to this program competitive, the way that it is for the Pre-Licensure BSN Options?**

Admission to the RN to BSN program is not competitive, the way that it is for our Pre-Licensure BSN Options. Spaces are awarded to qualified applicants on a first-to-enroll basis. We will not rank you against the other applicants and only admit the applicants with the highest GPA. As long as you meet our minimum admission criteria, you may enroll in our BSN Completion Program, as long as spaces remain.

**Will the grades that I earned in my associates or diploma nursing courses count into my GPA, when considering me for admission?**

Your GPA will be calculated on all attempts of all transferable courses. You must have at least 30 transferable credit hours of non-nursing courses, with at least a 2.5 GPA, to meet the minimum admission criteria.

**Can I receive course credit for the classes I took as part of my associates or diploma nursing degree?**

Graduates from associates or diploma programs will receive a "block" of 39 credits for their previous nursing coursework. These credits will be earned *after* the student completes the first two nursing courses with UMSL's College of Nursing. You will also receive credit for any transferrable general education coursework you did as part of your program.

**What are the general education requirements for the RN to BSN program? Do I have to complete all of these courses *before* I can enroll in the program?**

The *majority* of the general education course requirements for our RN to BSN program were probably already completed for your ADN or Diploma in Nursing. Any general education course requirements you

are lacking do not have to be completed *before* you can enroll in the RN to BSN program. They may be taken simultaneously with your BSN coursework (either at UMSL or at another regionally accredited institution); however, they must be completed before you can *graduate* from UMSL with your BSN. Always contact your nursing advisor prior to taking any courses at other colleges or universities.

A list of the general education course requirements for our RN to BSN program can be found [here](#).

**Is there a time limit/expiration on any of my general education courses?**

There is no time limit/expiration for any of the general education courses (including the major science courses) for applicants to the RN to BSN program. As a currently licensed nurse, you have the practical work experience to stay updated with the necessary information/technology that you need in the general education subject areas. As long as your courses transfer to UMSL, and you are currently licensed as an RN, then it does not matter how old your classes are.

**Do any of the courses have a clinical component?**

Yes, NURSE4911 has a clinical component. Clinical hours will be met through community-based independent clinical activities focusing on health promotion.

**How long does it take to complete the BSN?**

The nursing courses, as outlined in the [sample plan of study](#), will take five semesters. Students who still have general education course requirements might take longer to complete the program.

**Is there a time limit on completing the degree?**

No. However, it is important to consider that many of the courses are only offered one time per year. If you choose to take any time off from the program, you may have to wait a semester or two before the course you need is offered again. It is also important to note that if a student withdraws from the program and decides to return at a later date, he/she will be subject to any programmatic changes which occurred during his/her absence.

**What outreach sites do you offer?**

In addition to UMSL's campus and our online option, we also offer our RN to BSN program at various outreach sites throughout the St. Louis area. You will be taking UMSL courses with UMSL faculty members, but you will actually be attending courses at an off-campus location. Please view the [homepage](#) for the RN to BSN program for the most up-to-date offerings.

**During what semesters do you admit students to the RN to BSN program?**

We only admit students to certain sites/options during certain semesters. You may view the [homepage](#) for the RN to BSN program for the most up-to-date offerings. Please note that locations and start dates are subject to change.

**May I change sites/options once I begin the program?**

Yes, it is possible for a student to transfer to a different site/option after they have started their course of study, as long as spaces are still available at the desired site. Students should be aware, though, that switching from one site to another may delay their progression in the program (resulting in a longer course of study). It is important to remember that costs for various sites/options also vary.

**I am interested in the *online* option. Will I ever be required to visit campus?**

No, but we do recommend that you attend an RN to BSN New Student Orientation at the start of the program.

**Are the internet classes self-paced?**

There are course-related assignments that have deadlines and specific expectations determined by the faculty of record. However, you may complete the coursework at any time of the day or week, at your own convenience.

**What is the cost?**

The tuition/fees for each option (on campus vs. off campus vs. online) varies; therefore, the total cost for each option is different. You may find an estimation of the various options fees on the [RN to BSN page](#) of our website (look under *Estimated Cost* at the bottom of the page).

**How do I apply?**

Prospective students should follow the steps to apply listed [here](#).

**What if I don't want to send some of my previous college transcripts, because I didn't do very well in those courses?**

For our admission purposes, we calculate applicants' GPAs based on all transferable general education courses. Applicants do not have the option to pick and choose which transcripts they would like to submit; they must submit transcripts from *all* previously attended institutions. It is the policy of both the University of Missouri-St. Louis *and* the College of Nursing to wait until all transcripts have been received until an admission decision can be made. Students who do not list a complete academic history on their university application, and do not have official transcripts from all previously attended institutions sent to UMSL's Office of Admissions, can have their admission to both the University and the College of Nursing revoked.

**I have college coursework from a country outside of the United States. Do I have to submit these transcripts as well?**

Yes, *all* undergraduate coursework, including foreign coursework, will be taken into consideration for admission purposes. Since we calculate applicants' GPAs based on all transferable courses, we must also evaluate international coursework. We understand that it can be difficult to obtain international transcripts, course descriptions, etc.; however, we are required to treat all of our applicants the same with regards to our admission process. Therefore, foreign coursework must also be taken into consideration. Please note that the international admission process can be quite time-consuming. It is recommended that applicants with international coursework should start the process at least one semester before their planned enrollment term. Please click [here](#), and follow the instructions for submitting the required documents. If you have any questions about this process, please contact UMSL's [Office of International Student and Scholars Services](#).

**What is the deadline to apply?**

There is no deadline to apply for the RN to BSN program. However, students should be aware that we do have a cap on the number of students we can admit to each option. Spaces are awarded to qualified applicants on a first-to-enroll basis. Therefore, it is recommended that applicants submit all application materials at least 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the term for which they are seeking admission.

**What if I have been awarded my diploma/ADN, but I have not yet taken the NCLEX?**

You may be accepted into the RN to BSN program on a provisional basis for the first semester until NCLEX results are obtained.