

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE®

Bachelor's Degree in Nursing

RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Overview

The RN to Bachelor of Science (BS) in nursing program through Excelsior College® is designed to transition diploma and ADN-prepared RNs into baccalaureate-prepared nurses with the background and experience needed to deliver improved patient care across a variety of settings. The program, which is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, requires the successful completion of 121 credit hours, including 61 in general education and 60 in nursing. All nursing course instruction is managed entirely at a distance.

Many of the requirements for the curriculum may be met by passing college equivalency exams, making it possible for you to earn your bachelor's degree and become a bachelor's degree-prepared RN in less time than most campus-based programs. However, the length of time it takes you to complete the program is dependent upon several factors including degree needs, prior college credit earned, the time you devote to the program, and your personal study habits.

How The College Network's Program Works

The College Network's online program enables you to continue your education and earn college credit from the comfort of home. Satisfy your general education and elective requirements using The College Network's online program and exams, and then complete your degree program at Excelsior College® to earn your bachelor's degree. Admission to the program and final acceptance of credit rest with Excelsior College®.

The College Network's online program includes Comprehensive Learning Modules™ (courses) and exams. The exams are designed to measure what you would learn in a typical college course in the related subject area. The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT®) has evaluated and recommended college credit for The College Network's suite of online courses and exams. For more information, visit the ACE CREDIT web site at www.acenet.edu/credit.

Program Benefits

- No waiting lists to get started
- Flexible program enables you to work at your own pace
- Secure online access is available 24-hours a day
- Academic support is available for The College Network portion of the program
- Industry-leading technology makes it possible to take end-of-course exams from the comfort of home

- NLNAC-accredited program
- Regionally accredited college
- Convenient online learning format
- No on-campus classroom attendance required
- Self-paced learning
- Complete the program in as little as 24 months



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Program Progression

Up to 68 credit hours may be fulfilled with a combination of transfer credit awarded through previous college attendance and through credit-by-examination with The College Network™. The remainder of your nursing program will be completed online through Excelsior College®. You will be awarded your BS in nursing from Excelsior College® upon successful completion of the program.

Note: Learners must enroll with Excelsior College® prior to beginning any online Excelsior College® courses or nursing exams.

Degree Requirements (121 credit hours total)

The Excelsior College® RN to Bachelor of Science in nursing program requires successful completion of 121 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to graduate. Although the program is self paced, it must be completed within 7 years of enrollment.

The program is divided into two general areas:

General Education Requirements (61 credit hours)

English (6 credit hours)

- Freshman Writing
- Intermediate/Upper-Level Writing⁺

Humanities (12 credit hours)

- Ethics

Natural Science/Math (15 credit hours)

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Microbiology
- Statistics

Social Science/History (15 credit hours)

- Psychology
- Sociology

Arts & Sciences & Electives (12 credit hours)

Information Literacy⁺ (1 credit hour)

Nursing Requirements (60 credit hours)

Thirty credit hours will be granted for prior learning validated by successful completion of the NCLEX-RN®. An additional 30 credit hours will be earned through Excelsior College® courses and examinations. Three of these courses will be completed using The College Network's online program and the remaining courses will be completed online through Excelsior College®. (See course descriptions on the following page.)

⁺Available through Excelsior College®

Excelsior College® Course Descriptions

Bachelor of Science Nursing Components

NURx420 Management In Nursing (4 credits)*

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

The Management in Nursing examination measures ability to apply specific management concepts to the care of the client (individual, family, groups and communities) within diverse health care settings. Concepts covered include leadership, innovation, managing the organization, fiscal management, empowerment, and information management. Emphasis is placed on the role of the registered nurse as an active participant in the organization.

Delivery: Computer-based multiple choice theory examination through Excelsior College®.

NURx430 Research in Nursing examination (3 credits)*

Prerequisites: Statistics, writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

The examination measures knowledge and skill acquisition related to the research process. Evidence-based practice, critical thinking, critical reading, and the nurse's role in the application of research to practice are emphasized. The content covered in the examination consists of the foundations of research, the research process, quantitative and qualitative research, and evaluation of a research study. Knowledge and understanding of statistics is required.

Delivery: Computer-based multiple-choice and extended response theory examination through Excelsior College®.

OR

NUR 430 Research in Nursing course (3 credits)

Prerequisites: Statistics, writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

This course focuses on knowledge and skill acquisition related to research process. Evidence-based practice, critical thinking, critical reading, and the baccalaureate nurse's role in the application of research to practice are emphasized. Course content examines the foundations of research, the research process, quantitative and qualitative research designs, as well as evaluation of a quantitative research study.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 15 weeks through Excelsior College®.

NUR 436 Professional Transitions (3 credits)

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

This course explores the evolution of contemporary nursing in the context of history, theory, knowledge, and reasoning while enhancing one's role as a member of the profession. Emphasis is placed on the roles of the bachelor's prepared professional nurse, the processes guiding nursing practice, lifelong learning, and nursing in the changing health care environment and world.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 8 weeks through Excelsior College®.

NUR 438 Nursing Informatics (2 credits)

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

This course provides knowledge about the roles and skills in information management and the application of technology to inform nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on technological supports for patient care interventions and the use of decision-support systems to gather evidence to guide practice. The use and understanding of standardized terminologies and the role of information technology in improving patient outcomes and creating a safe environment will be included.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 8 weeks through Excelsior College®.

NUR 442 Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice (4 credits)

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

This course focuses on a holistic approach to health assessment and health promotion across the life span. The development of clinical judgment and the application of communication and assessment skills in the professional nursing role are achieved through the integration of advanced knowledge, concepts, theories and practice.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 15 weeks through Excelsior College®.

NUR 446 Teaching and Learning in a Diverse Society (4 credits)

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

This course focuses on the role of the nurse as educator and the ability to teach a group of adult clients with a shared learning need. Theory and research-based evidence from nursing and other disciplines are integrated with concepts of caring and cultural competence, health promotion, behavioral change, and principles of teaching and learning. Application of the education process is emphasized. In partnership with clients, the student develops, implements, and evaluates a teaching plan designed to produce a desired change in behavior.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 8 weeks through Excelsior College®.

NUR 448 Community-Focused Nursing (4 credits) *

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

The Community-Focused Nursing examination prepares the registered nurse for transition to baccalaureate-level practice. The concept of client is expanded to include families, aggregates, and communities within the context of a complex and dynamic environment. Principles of epidemiology, demography, environmental sciences, and political organizations are integrated with nursing concepts and principles to provide a basis for community nursing practice. Analysis and application of selected theories and health promotion/protection and disease prevention strategies are explored. The examination focuses on the synthesis of population-based health and public health concepts to promote, maintain, and restore health of families, aggregates, and communities. Knowledge from practice and readings are used to operationalize the core concepts of critical thinking, communication, research, role development, caring, and cultural competence.

Delivery: Computer-based multiple choice theory examination through Excelsior College®.

NUR450 Capstone Course (4 credits)

Prerequisite: Students must complete all nursing program requirements and be within 6 credits of completing the general education requirements. Current RN licensure will be validated prior to enrollment in this course.

This course focuses on synthesizing theories, principles, models, and skills from nursing, other disciplines, and the arts and sciences. The student integrates knowledge gained throughout the curriculum to operationalize core concepts (critical thinking, communication, research, role development, caring and cultural competence) while functioning in roles of bachelor's nursing practice. Multiple theories and models are applied to the care of the client across the lifespan in the community setting. The focus is on families, aggregates, and communities as the client. Each student's unique experiences are used as the context for learning to enhance practice and enrich professional development. This course cannot be waived under any circumstances.

Delivery: Online course delivered over 15 weeks through Excelsior College®

Nursing Electives (3 credits)

Prerequisites: Writing requirements, information literacy, and ethics

In addition to the nursing requirements, 3 credits of nursing elective credit at the bachelor's level are necessary to meet the 60 credits of nursing component. Consultation with your Excelsior College® academic advisor is required before taking a course or examination for nursing elective credit in order to be sure that you are choosing an option that is applicable toward your degree. (See the Excelsior College® web site at www.excelsior.edu for a current listing of certifications approved for elective credit.)

* The College Network™ online program is available for preparation of this exam.

ACE® Transcript Services

For the benefit of our learners, The College Network participates in the American Council on Education's (ACE) Transcript Service. The ACE Transcript Service offers a lifelong record for students who have successfully completed our courses that have been reviewed by ACE CREDIT. This service enables adult learners to present a nationally recognized transcript to the college or university of their choice for the potential award of academic credit. For more information, visit the ACE CREDIT Transcript Service web site at www.acenet.edu/credit/transcripts.

For more than 30 years, colleges and universities have trusted ACE CREDIT to provide reliable course equivalency information to facilitate their decisions to award academic credit. For more information, visit the ACE CREDIT web site at www.acenet.edu/credit.

Excelsior College® Admissions Criteria

The RN–BS in nursing program is open to students who have met the following criteria:

- Successfully completed an associate's degree in nursing or diploma nursing program
- Successfully completed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®)
- Hold a valid U.S. RN license

For questions regarding the admissions process, call (877) 256-5327 to speak with a representative from The College Network™.

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The program information in this publication is current at the time of printing. The most up-to-date information is available at www.collegenetwork.com, or you can speak with a Program Advisor at 1-877-CLM LEARN (256-5327).

Toll free 1-877-CLM LEARN (256-5327) | www.collegenetwork.com/brochure | www.college-net.com