

Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN)

Associate's Degree in Nursing Overview

Excelsior College® School of Nursing, which has been designated as an NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education™, offers an ADN program that prepares nurses to deliver quality care and be effective members of the healthcare team in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. It also helps nurses function as patient advocates within the legal and ethical parameters defined by the profession. The program, which is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, requires the successful completion of 67 semester credits, including 31 in general education and 36 in nursing.

Many of the requirements for the curriculum may be met by passing college equivalency exams, making it possible for you to earn your ADN and become an 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. **Admission to the program and final acceptance of credit rest with Excelsior College®.**

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 associate's degree.

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.

Your general education and elective requirements can be fulfilled using a combination of The College Network's online program and exams, CLEP®, DSST®, and Excelsior College® exams.

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

- Accredited degree program
- Academic support available (for The College Network portion of the program)
- No on-campus classes to attend
- Study at your convenience
- Educational materials developed by professors from leading universities
- Financing options available (for The College Network portion of the program)
- Provider of Rx for NCLEX® Success



ADN



How Do I Earn My Associate's Degree in Nursing?

Step 1:

Receive your preliminary course analysis

To determine an estimate of your course requirements, a Program Advisor will complete a preliminary course analysis for you in person or by phone. Please call us at 1-877-256-5327 and we will assist you.

Step 2:

Complete enrollment papers with The College Network®

Upon a FREE course analysis of recommended program requirements, complete an enrollment form and submit a deposit to initiate the The College Network portion of your program.

Step 3:

Study your Comprehensive Learning Modules™

This is the fun part! Your professionally written learning modules contain the information necessary to be successful on the college equivalency exam—we even guarantee it! Study the material and complete the practice examination. If you need assistance with your studies, call Academic Support at The College Network.

Step 4:

Take the official college equivalency exams

The College Network's program also includes online exams, which may be taken from the comfort of home. Your general education and elective requirements can be fulfilled using a combination of The College Network's online program and exams, CLEP®, DSST®, and Excelsior College® exams.

Step 5:

Enroll in Excelsior College®

You must enroll with Excelsior College® before challenging the last seven nursing exams. Excelsior College® requires that all of your nursing credits and all but ten credits of general education requirements must be completed before you're eligible to schedule the clinical examinations.

Step 6:

Take the Focused Clinical Competencies Assessment (FCCASM)

This is a two-part, computer-generated (or delivered), simulated clinical competency assessment of skills related to head-to-toe assessment, managing multiple patients, and interacting with an interdisciplinary healthcare team.

Step 7:

Pass clinicals

This 2 ½-day exam tests your clinical skills. Excelsior College® will provide you with study materials to prepare for this exam. There is typically a wait for the clinical (depending on the time of year and location). During that time, you can prepare for the Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination® (CPNE®) and finish any general education credits you have not yet completed.

Step 8:

Graduate from Excelsior College®

Receive your Associate in Science in Nursing. We encourage you and your family to attend graduation ceremonies in New York. It is an accomplishment you should be very proud of. You may also choose to have your degree sent to you by mail.

Step 9:

Take State Board exams to earn your RN license

Excelsior College® will inform your state nursing board that you are eligible to sit for the exams. Upon passing the boards, you will become a licensed Registered Nurse. Congratulations!



Course Descriptions

These Comprehensive Learning Modules™ cover basic nursing concepts and practices. Study questions are provided at the end of each chapter, and a multiple-choice practice examination is located at the end of the module. Before studying each of these modules, learners should have a good working knowledge of anatomy and physiology, emotional and physical development, microbiology, and nutrition.

<p>Transition to the Registered Nurse Role The Transition to the Registered Professional Nurse Role Comprehensive Learning Module focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the associate degree nurse, including the following topics: historical figures and forces influencing the development of the nursing practice; the health care delivery system; framework for nursing practice (including ethical, legal, and educational aspects of nursing); and roles, functions, and practice settings of the associate degree graduate.</p>	<p>Essentials of Nursing Care: Reproductive Health Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: human sexuality, needs of the childbearing family, congenital abnormalities, genetic disorders, developmental problems, and reproductive disorders. The Comprehensive Learning Module has an emphasis on theoretical frameworks for nursing care, including the nursing process and the ANA Standards of Care.</p>
<p>Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Safety Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: the nursing process; health, wellness, and illness; and environmental safety, biological safety, bioterrorism and disaster preparedness, medication safety, and psychological safety. The Comprehensive Learning Module places an emphasis on theoretical frameworks for nursing care, including the nursing process and the ANA Standards of Care.</p>	<p>Health Differences Across the Life Span 1 Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: cardiovascular problems, respiratory problems, and abnormal cellular growth.</p>
<p>Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Differences* Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: nutrition, elimination, oxygenation, fluid and electrolyte balance, activity and mobility, and sleep. The Comprehensive Learning Module places an emphasis on theoretical frameworks for nursing care, including the nursing process and the ANA Standards of Care.</p>	<p>Health Differences Across the Life Span 2 Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: behavioral responses, cognitive assessment, regulatory mechanisms, and metabolic mechanisms.</p>
<p>Essentials of Nursing Care: Chronicity Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology Major topics covered include the following: comfort, pain, chronic illness, end-of-life care, sensory impairments, culture and diversity, and community-based nursing care. The Comprehensive Learning Module has an emphasis on theoretical frameworks for nursing care, including the nursing process and the ANA Standards of Care.</p>	<p>Health Differences Across the Life Span 3 Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology The Health Differences Across the Life Span 3 Comprehensive Learning Module focuses on the following areas of nursing care: infectious and communicable diseases; tissue trauma; neurological dysfunction; and musculoskeletal dysfunction.</p>

*If you have taken the NCLEX®-PN within five years prior to enrolling with Excelsior College® you may not be required to complete Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Differences. Final determination rests with Excelsior College®.

Associate's Degree in Nursing Clinicals

The Excelsior College® associate's degree in nursing program includes two clinical exam components that you will be required to successfully complete to graduate.

1. Focused Clinical Competencies Assessment (FCCASM) (4 Semester Hours)

The first clinical exam component is the FCCA. To be eligible for the FCCA, you will need to complete all Nursing Theory exams and be within ten (10) general education credits of completing your degree. The FCCA is graded as Pass/Fail and is worth four credits when passed. This computer-generated (or delivered), simulated clinical assessment provides a means for students to demonstrate competencies related to the following two essential elements of nursing practice:

- Head-to-Toe Assessment and Nursing Process
- Managing Multiple Patients/Working with Interdisciplinary Teams

You may register and take the sections in any order. Once you meet the eligibility requirements, Excelsior College® will send you a study guide to help prepare you for the FCCA. Online conferences and practice exams are also available to help you prepare for the FCCA.

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.

Degree Requirements

The Associate in Science in Nursing from Excelsior College® requires successful completion of 67 semester credits, including 31 in general education and 36 in nursing.

Many requirements for this degree program may be met by taking Excelsior College® Examinations after you have studied The College Network's educational materials.

School of Nursing Admission Policy*

The Excelsior College® nursing degree program has been specifically designed to meet the educational needs of qualified individuals with a significant background and/or experience in clinically oriented health care disciplines.

Admission to the ADN program is open to:

- Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses (LPNs/LVNs)
- Certain classifications of Military Corpsmen
- Paramedics
- Respiratory Therapists, Respiratory Technicians, Respiratory Care Practitioners
- Physicians
- Licensed, Certified, and Registered Lay Midwives
- Physician Assistants (RPA)

*Not available in all states. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

Excelsior College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.



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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 1-877-256-5327.

Toll free 1-877-256-5327 | www.collegenetwork.com/brochure

2. Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination® (CPNE®) (8 Semester Hours)

The second clinical exam component, the CPNE®, is a competency based examination that measures beginning RN knowledge and skills. The CPNE is a 2 ½-day performance examination where you will be observed one-on-one by a master's prepared nurse faculty member. Eligibility to complete the CPNE will be granted upon successful completion of all nursing theory exams, the FCCA, and at least 21 of the required 31 semester hours in general education.

Once you meet the eligibility requirements, Excelsior College® will send you the CPNE Study Guide. A videotape and workbook, workshops, teleconferences, and online programs are also available to help you prepare for the exam. There are two areas of focus in the CPNE:

Simulation Laboratory

During this portion of the CPNE you must successfully meet all of the critical elements for the following areas:

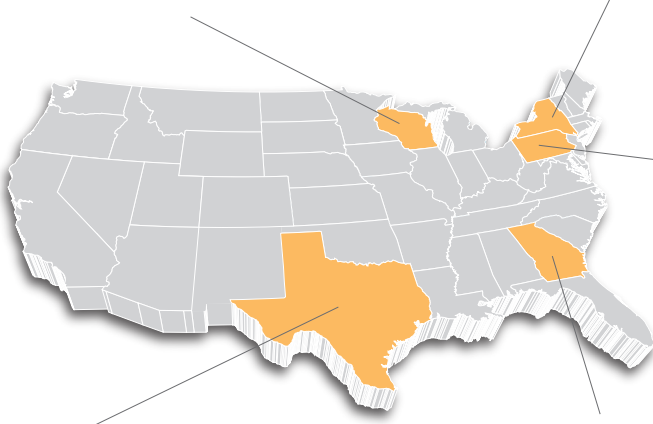
- Management of a wound
- Administration of IV medications by gravity
- Administration of IV medications by bolus
- Administration of injectable medications

Patient Care Situations

During this portion of the CPNE you will be providing care to actual, hospitalized adult and pediatric patients. You must successfully complete all of the critical elements for the assigned areas of care.

CPNE Locations

The CPNE is currently being administered at the following locations*:



Wisconsin

- Madison (Meriter Hospital)
- Madison (St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center)

Texas

- Lubbock (Health Systems-Lakeside Campus)

New York

- Albany (Albany Medical Center)
- Albany (St. Peter's Hospital)
- Flushing (New York Medical Center Hospital of Queens)
- Syracuse (University Hospital)
- Utica (Faxton/St. Lukes Health Care)

Georgia

- Atlanta (Grady Memorial Hospital)
- Atlanta (Northside Hospital/Children's Healthcare of Atlanta)
- Riverdale (Southern Regional Medical Center)
- Savannah (Memorial Health University Medical Center)

Pennsylvania

- Chambersburg (Chambersburg Hospital)

*Obtained from the Excelsior College® web site (www.excelsior.edu) and the Excelsior College® School of Nursing catalog. To access the School of Nursing Catalog, you will need to create a free user name and password. Clinical sites and fees are subject to change at the discretion of Excelsior College®.



Prepare For Your Clinicals

ePatient

ePatient® is an online software application designed to help you become more proficient in handling clinical situations. Using the software's components, you will conduct a patient assessment and virtual physical exam, organize patient data into framework categories, and then use the information to select nursing diagnoses and create care plans. Then, after a period of virtual time, you will be able to evaluate your patient's progress toward the desired outcomes. Questions and expert feedback throughout each client case provide you with an opportunity to evaluate your progress and the quality of your decision making.

Case studies

Each case study allows you to experience the considerations required for different patient populations in a virtual environment, including:

- Pediatrics
- Geriatrics
- Obstetrics
- Adult Health



ePatient is sold separately.

Prepare For Licensure

Rx for NCLEX Success

The Rx for NCLEX® Success is an online software application designed to help you pass your NCLEX-RN® exam.

Features include:

- More than 4,200 NCLEX exam-style practice items, complete with comprehensive rationales, available in our online Question Review Bank
- 8 online Comprehensive Learning Modules™ to help you improve your knowledge in specific content areas as outlined by the NCLEX-RN test plan
- NCLEX® Testing Strategies Guide

Rx for NCLEX Success is sold separately.