

# BACHELOR

of science in nursing



## RN to BSN



You've already taken the first step toward optimizing your nursing career by earning your RN license, but now you're ready to go further. As industry demand for bachelor's-prepared RNs continues to climb, there has never been a more opportune time to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

### The Changing Job Market

As job growth in the nursing sector flourishes, your qualification as a bachelor's-prepared RN will open the door to a proven number of future job opportunities. In today's economic conditions, nursing remains the single most secure occupation, ranking #1 for job growth and employment status on *U.S. News & World Report's* "25 Best Jobs of 2012."<sup>1</sup>

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities in nursing are expected to grow 26% by 2020 in order to serve the aging population.<sup>2</sup> And despite the 2.7 million nurses on the job today, health care researchers predict a national shortage of up to 1,000,000 nurses by 2020–2025.<sup>3</sup>

### A Call for More BSNs

In response to the growing demand for nurses, industry standards for nursing credential requirements are in the midst of a historic change. According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), 80% of registered nurses in the United States will need to hold a bachelor's degree or higher by the year 2020 in order to meet national demand.<sup>4</sup> In order to adjust to the changing needs of the patient population, the IOM report suggests that all nurses will be required to achieve higher levels of education and practice to the full extent of their training.

By pursuing your Bachelor of Science in Nursing today, you can secure your position as a qualified candidate and prepare yourself for future changes in the health care job market.

80%



The percentage of registered nurses in the United States who will need to hold a bachelor's degree or higher by the year 2020<sup>4</sup>

## Program Overview

Regis University, in partnership with The College Network®, offers a Bachelor's Degree program designed for today's busy nurse. The RN to BSN program offers a well-rounded curriculum in a format that allows you to complete your upper-level nursing courses in just 12 to 24 months.

## Regis University

For more than 130 years, Regis University has upheld a tradition of academic rigor, intellectual exchange, and individual faculty commitment to each student's personal development in an ever-changing environment. Regis University highlights include:

- **Accreditation:** Accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association
- **Nursing Accreditation:** American Association of Colleges of Nursing—Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (AACN-CCNE)
- **Reputation:** Ranked as a top school by *U.S. News & World Report*<sup>5</sup>
- **Faculty:** Accessible and personable staff of experts
- **Support:** Individualized treatment (17:1 student/faculty ratio)
- **Flexibility:** Generous credit transfer policy for adult learners

## The College Network

The College Network's online program enables you to continue your education and earn college credit at a pace that works best for you. Satisfy your general education and elective requirements using The College Network's online program to prepare for end-of-course college equivalency examinations, including

Customers of The College Network who enroll with Regis University are eligible to receive 10% off Regis University's tuition. (Certain restrictions may apply.)

CLEP®, DSST®, and Excelsior College® Examinations. Credit earned this way can be transferred to Regis University where you will complete the rest of your degree.

## Practicum Experiences

Regis University acknowledges that registered nurses are highly experienced health care professionals who bring valuable skills and abilities to their current academic pursuits. Therefore, a course with a clinical component, called a practicum, is designed specifically for registered nurses. The practicum course students will complete in the program is in community health nursing. The practicum is preceded by a related theory course and requires 45 hours "in the field" at a local agency that can provide meaningful learning experiences for the student in the course content area.

The community health practicum hours are completed in an agency that provides population-based nursing. The major assignment for this course is the completion of a community assessment and program plan.

In addition to the practicum component of the program, you are required to complete 20 hours of service learning. Service learning provides an educational experience while instilling the belief that service to one's community is a lifelong pursuit. Service learning is integrated into your program of study as part of the BSN

program. The nursing faculty and service learning coordinator help you to establish an appropriate service learning project.

**98.1%**

### Did you know?

The current employment rate for recent nursing graduates with previous field experience is 98.1%.<sup>6</sup>



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## Degree Track Options for Courses in the Nursing Major

### Option 1:

#### Fast-Track Progression

The Fast Track progression allows the student to complete the program in 12 months over 3 semesters in 8-week terms.

Start: January, May, or August

### Option 2:

#### Standard Progression

Standard progression allows the student to complete the program over 24 months.

Start: January, May, or August

## Course Descriptions

### NR 444R Professional Role Development (3 SH)

Examines themes including the Jesuit mission, service learning, personal and professional values, roles and issues in contemporary professional nursing, standards of practice, and academic tools that foster success in the nursing program.

### NR 448R Updates in Illness and Disease Management (3 SH)

Focuses on pathophysiology and updates in medical management and nursing care of selected acute and chronic illnesses. Social, cultural, and environmental influences on health and illness are explored. Features current research and the use of cutting-edge and web-based health care resources.

### NR 452R Contemporary Topics in Health Care (3 SH)

Explores professional nursing roles within contemporary health care topic areas, including informatics, human diversity and cultural competence, gerontology, vulnerable populations, violence, social justice, and global health. Students engage in service learning and reflection.

### NR 455R Health Promotion Concepts (3 SH)

Focuses on health promotion and health teaching for healthy lifestyles in a diverse and multicultural society. Concepts of culture, spirituality, aging, chronicity, advocacy, and client anatomy are explored. The nursing process is applied to health promotion, disease prevention, and wellness through health teaching interventions.

### NR 460R Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (3 SH)

Focuses on analysis and research by the professional nurse. Analyzes research processes and other tools fundamental to evidence-based nursing practice and stresses the importance of both qualitative and quantitative methods to the evolving art and science of nursing. Prerequisite: NR 444R.

### NR 466R Community Health Nursing (3 SH)

Provides overview on population-based nursing. Explores principles relevant to community health nursing including public health, epidemiology, and environmental health. Addresses the impact of health care policies on social justice and health care disparities.

### NR 478R Community Health Nursing Practicum (3 SH)

Fosters integration of community health theory into clinical practice while students complete 45 hours of practicum in a community-based setting. With faculty guidance, students select experiences that provide the opportunity to develop a community assessment and program plan. Service learning activities focus on community and social justice.

### NR 480R The Nurse Leader-Manager (3 SH)

Expands knowledge of leadership and management principles applied to health care, the changing health care system, health outcomes, professional issues, political action, and career development. Explores ethical, legal, and policy issues related to nursing practice.

### NR 485R Leadership in Nursing Capstone (3 SH)

This leadership capstone course is designed to provide the students opportunities to integrate leadership and management principles into professional practice as they reflect on RN-BSN Completion Program learning. Includes faculty-directed assignments and projects as indirect practice activities to achieve course and program outcomes.

### HCE 430R Applied Ethics in Health Care (3 SH)

Examines ethical dilemmas in health care and the decision-making process involved in clinical, professional, and organizational ethics. Explores philosophical and faith-based foundations, including Catholic moral tradition, sociocultural influences, professional codes, and organizational and personal ethical norms.

SH = Semester Hours

## RN to BSN

### Admissions Criteria

1. Be presently licensed as a registered nurse and be in good standing with the board of nursing in the state in which you will complete your practicum.
2. Have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. (Note: Prospective students with lower GPAs will be considered on an individual basis by the Department of Nursing.)
3. Fill out transcript request forms (provided by The College Network). The College Network will send for your transcripts from all colleges and universities attended and will forward them to Regis University.
4. Submit two completed recommendation forms. One professional recommendation is required from a current supervisor; the second can be either academic or professional.
5. Online RN to BSN students must meet basic hardware and software requirements and have some experience using the Internet.

### DNP Program for MS in Nursing Graduates

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is the terminal practice degree for nurses who choose to maintain focus on providing leadership in nursing practice. Graduates of the BS in Nursing program have an opportunity to further their education and earn their MS in Nursing and then continue on and earn their DNP online through Regis University.

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*For questions regarding the admissions process, call The College Network at 1-877-256-5327 to speak with a representative.*  
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#### Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. News & World Report: *Registered Nurse: Job Profile & Salary*, <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/registered-nurse>
- <sup>2</sup> American Association of Colleges of Nursing: *Nursing Shortage*, <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/fact-sheets/nursing-shortage>
- <sup>3</sup> HealthAffairs: *Education Policy Initiatives To Address The Nurse Shortage In The United States*, <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/28/4/w646.full>
- <sup>4</sup> Institute of Medicine: *The Future of Nursing: Focus on Education*, <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health/Report-Brief-Education.aspx>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. News & World Report: *Regis University*, <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/>
- <sup>6</sup> The Daily Beast: *13 Most Useful College Majors: Nursing, Math, and More*, [http://www.thedailybeast.com/galleries/2012/04/25/13-most-useful-college-majors-nursing-math-and-more-photos.html#slide\\_11](http://www.thedailybeast.com/galleries/2012/04/25/13-most-useful-college-majors-nursing-math-and-more-photos.html#slide_11)