

Frequently Asked Questions about the RN-BSN Program

Q: Who can apply to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program?

A: This program is designed for the Registered Nurse (RN) who wants to obtain a bachelor's degree. You must have a license to practice nursing (from any state in the U.S.), and have a minimum of 2.0 overall GPA in order to apply to this program. If you are not a nurse and wish to pursue this career choice, you can apply to the [Associate in Science Nursing Program](#) housed at SPC's Health Education Center.

Q: How do I apply for the BSN program?

A: You must apply for admission and have all official transcripts sent to Central Records. Please view the Admissions Checklist at http://www.spcollege.edu/bachelors/docs/AdmChecklist_CON_Nursing.pdf for additional information.

Q: Is there a wait list for the RN-BSN program?

A: There is no waiting list for the program. Students who meet the requirements for admission are offered admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Students enroll in BSN classes on a space available basis.

Q: How long is the program?

A: The core nursing curriculum length is approximately five semesters or one and a half years--or between 18-20 months. See sample course schedules at <http://www.spcollege.edu/bachelors/nursing/schedule.php>.

Q: I have an A.S. (or A.A.S.) degree. Will I need to take general education courses in addition to the nursing curriculum?

A: Yes, you will need to complete all state-mandated prerequisites listed on the Admissions Checklist, [general education courses](#) or earn an AA degree before taking the upper-division courses in the BSN curriculum. You also need to meet the [foreign language requirement](#). You may complete these requirements at your local college or at SPC.

Q: I would like to take a basic computer literacy course in preparation for this program. Which one do you recommend?

A: Currently, the best one to take at SPC is CGS 1070 Basic Computer and Information Literacy. You must demonstrate Computer/Information literacy competency before admission.

Q: I have an A.A. degree. Will I need to take general education courses in addition to the nursing curriculum?

A: No. Having a documented Associate in Arts degree exempts you from general education courses. However the state-mandated prerequisites listed on the Admissions Checklist and foreign language are separate requirements which you may or may not have completed as a part of the AA degree you earned elsewhere. All lower division state-mandated prerequisites, general education and [foreign language requirements](#) must be completed prior to enrolling in upper-division nursing courses.

Q: Do I need to take a foreign language?

A: If you have not successfully completed two consecutive years of the same foreign language in high school, you will need to complete 8 credits (two semesters) of one foreign language at the college level. If you took two years in high school, you must submit your high school transcript for validation of completion of this requirement. American Sign Language courses can be taken to complete the foreign language requirement. If you earned a regionally accredited AA or bachelor's degree prior to September 1, 1989, you are exempt from the foreign language requirement. For more details, please visit http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/foreign_lang_req.htm

Q: I am currently a student in a BSN program at another institution, how can I transfer to the RN-BSN program at SPC?

A: Registered nurses who wish to transfer from another BSN program to the RN-BSN program at SPC must complete the application process as a new student to SPC. In addition, they may submit the course syllabi/descriptions for BSN courses completed elsewhere to the Dean for the College of Nursing at SPC. The Dean may substitute up to 10 upper division nursing credits towards the 40 credit hour BSN curriculum at SPC. However, students must complete at least 30 of the upper division BSN credits through SPC.

Q: How do I know when BSN courses start and end?

A: Each BSN course will be taught in a shortened framework of four to ten weeks. **You will be taking only one BSN course at a time.** It is best to review the RN-BSN [sample course schedule](#), as it does not follow the traditional college calendar.

Q: I have a full-time RN job. Will I be able to complete the program while continuing to work?

A: Yes. Many of our current BSN students have family responsibilities and most work full- or part-time while in the program. Some students may need to make adjustments to their schedule during the practicum courses.

Q: How much time during the week will I need to spend on my courses?

A: Expect to spend between 7 and 15 hours a week to complete course activities, papers, projects and other requirements.

Q: Is there much writing required in the BSN program?

A: Yes, this program has a writing-intensive curriculum. It is expected that students have an excellent command of written English language, and that written work is at the baccalaureate level. Student assessment is mostly derived from written communication via papers, projects, email and discussion forums.

Q: Which is the best way to do the program, online or face-to-face?

A: What works best for you depends on your own learning style and preference. Students tend to prefer online/internet classes when they have the discipline to commit themselves to completing course requirements without a structured class format. Both the online and face-to-face classes offer students the opportunity to network and collaborate with other healthcare professionals. If you are considering an online course, please review the online student readiness [quiz](#). Note: Online courses are \$15 per credit hour more than face-to-face courses.

Q: As an online BSN student, will I ever have to come to the SPC campus, or meet with an instructor?

A: No. Online BSN students will complete the new student orientation online; it is a PowerPoint presentation located in the Nursing Commons. One of the unique features of our online BSN program is that there is never a requirement to be on campus. The fully online option has the convenience of allowing students to complete their coursework at any time of the day or night that is compatible with their schedules. Students do not have to spend any time on campus. There are two practicum courses that are arranged close to the student's home.

Q: Is it really completely online?

A: Yes. You will have the option of sending your instructor a videotape of your health assessment final, and you can find a preceptor local to your area for your practicum courses.

Q: Do I need special computer training to succeed in online courses?

A: You do not need proof of specialized computer training to succeed in our online courses. However, it would be helpful if you have a working knowledge of the following:

- Email, including sending attachments
- Accessing and browsing the web
- Basic computer functions like word processing, copying and pasting text as well as backup procedures
- Be able to "bookmark" or set as a "favorite" your class home page, and other frequently visited websites
- Create, name, save, and move files and folders around on your computer

Q: Do I have to have a particular type of computer and software in order to take online courses?

A: Please review the [technical requirements](#) for online courses. The computer software that is required for completion of writing and project assignments is Microsoft Word 98 or higher (with PowerPoint): Microsoft Office for Students and Teachers OR Microsoft Office Professional are both excellent choices to purchase if necessary.

Q: What online program does SPC use for the BSN courses?

A: ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning) is the chosen learning management system at St. Petersburg College for all online courses. ANGEL provides faculty a place to make content easily available to students. ANGEL also has a variety of online tools to facilitate communication between the instructor and both online and face-to-face students.

Q: If I chose to complete the program online, how often will I need to log into my courses?

A: Since our courses are delivered in shortened time frames of four to ten weeks, you will need to login and participate four days a week. All activities are asynchronous, meaning that you can do your coursework any day or time of the week that you choose, and from any location that has internet access.

Q: If I chose to attend the program online and discover that I perform better in face-to-face classes, can I switch?

A: Yes. However, you cannot switch formats when a course is in progress. Please note you will need to confirm that there is space in a course before making a switch. You can contact the Director of Curriculum and Student Success if you have any questions.

Q: Is there a clinical component or requirement for this program?

A: The RN-BSN program is not a clinical program. This program is designed to enhance your knowledge and skills in nursing research, management and education.

Q: What are the practicum courses?

A: In the last two semesters of the RN-BSN program, students complete community and leadership practicum courses that complement their theoretical courses. Each practicum provides the opportunity for students to explore area of focus outside the traditional clinical nursing setting, and to do so within their community. Students develop their own learning contract and identify a mentor to facilitate their practicum experiences. Each practicum can be focused on many non-traditional settings including areas such as education, public health, research, marketing, sales, and business. Each practicum experience involves 45 documented hours in your area of interest as observation, internship, project development, research and implementation. Each practicum course may require participation during traditional/daytime hours.

Q: What is the nursing elective requirement?

A: Students who are interested in completing the nursing elective requirement via an independent study course should contact the faculty member of interest for project options. Independent study courses involve 15-45 contact hours. Students might also complete the nursing elective requirement by completing one of two credit hour elective courses: See Course Descriptions for the various course options.